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POLL RESULTS

Do you think the Saipan legislative delegation adequately consulted the public on the casino issue?

Yes	16
No	102
No opinion	6

Sunday, September 4, 2011

INSIDE

Foremost Donates

Foremost donates 800 cases of milk to three nonprofit organizations on Saipan.

LOCAL...Page 14

New Threat

A nationwide warning is out about al-Qaida threats to small airplanes.

NATION...Page 15

Act of Generosity

Monica Bellucci says her decision to appear nude in her latest film was an act of generosity.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

Multimillion CNMI airline eyed

» To help support tourism, casino industries

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said the Fitial administration has been planning on either investing in a multimillion airline in partnership with private businesses, or at the very least push for a privately-owned airline with government backing to directly fly tourists to the CNMI.

Inos

Inos said that having an airline to bring in direct flights from Japan, China, Korea and other markets is also key to establishing a casino industry on Saipan, in addition to those on Tinian and Rota.

"We'd like for it to be a CNMI carrier," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the celebration of the 25th sacerdotal

See AIRLINE on Page 4

22 LB staffers get pink slips

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Twenty-two Legislative Bureau staffers received notices of non-renewal of employment contract on Friday afternoon because no budget has been enacted 30 days before the expiration of these employees' contracts on Sept. 30.

Reyes

The Legislative Bureau may also be forced to reduce its workforce if the final budget legislation does not sufficiently fund the bureau to maintain its current level of 22 full-time employees.

LB director Glenna SP. Reyes, in her two-page notice to the employees, said she's optimistic that a fiscal year 2012 budget act will be enacted prior to the end of the fiscal year and sufficient funding will allocated to the bureau to maintain its current staffing.

"However, I am also cognizant that the bureau may be forced to take adverse personnel actions if it is not sufficiently funded in the final budget act," Reyes told the LB staffers in her letter, a copy of which was obtained on Friday.

One of those who received a notice, who asked that her name be withheld, said she's worried about her family if she doesn't get paid for the duration of days a new budget is not enacted or if she loses her job because of a possible reduction in force.

"There won't be food for the children. We don't know how many days we will be in shutdown," she said.

Another employee asked whether the LB director's contract will also not be renewed if and when there's no budget

See STAFFERS on Page 4

25 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

Fr. Isaac "Ike" Ayuyu, standing left, hands over gifts to those who joined him in the celebration of his 25th year as a Catholic priest, during a fundraising luncheon at the Pacific Islands Club on Saturday. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go toward improvement of the Mount Carmel Cathedral. Ayuyu was ordained on Aug. 30, 1986, by then Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, who was also present on Saturday, along with acting governor Eloy S. Inos and hundreds of faithful.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

AS CNMI OBSERVES LABOR DAY

Govt, private employees thanked for their patience, resiliency

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

As the CNMI joins the nation in observing Labor Day, acting governor Eloy S. Inos thanked government and private sector employees for their patience, understanding and resiliency in the face of work hour cuts, unpaid holidays and delayed payrolls.

Today is another unpaid government holiday, sending many employees on a three-day weekend.

For some in the private sector, joblessness has become inevitable because of the weak economy.

"We want to express our appreciation for their patience and we congratulate them for another year of resiliency. And we're not just hoping, but we're trying our best to try to bring more investments, bring more activity to the islands so we can generate the kind of revenue that will support the community," Inos said in an interview on Saturday about his Labor Day message.

Since June 2010, thousands of so-called non-critical government employees have been experiencing delayed payrolls.

Many of them are also subjected to 16-

See GOVT on Page 4

Man files $100,00 lawsuit over police brutality. PAGE 3
Vandals deface Filcom Pavilion. PAGE 7

Local

Women, many accompanied by their husbands or boyfriends, line up for the free clinical breast exam and health outreach at the Sabalu market in Susupe on Sept. 3.
CLARISSA V. DAVID

Free breast exams, medical outreach attract large crowd

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

At least 40 women availed of the free clinical breast exam in the mobile clinic of the Department of Public Health and another 40 signed up for mammogram and Pap smear referrals at the Sabalu market in Susupe on Sept. 3.

Dr. Jennifer Linden and nurse practitioner Gayline Blau administered the clinical breast exam during Saturday's breast and cervical health and wellness event—a joint venture of the Commonwealth Cancer Association and DPH.

About 20 trained volunteers of CCA and DPH staff also provided some 150 individuals free health services such as blood pressure and blood sugar checks, body mass index calculations, HIV screening, and information dissemination.

CCA program manager Tina Sablan said that many were already lining up as early as 5:30am, way before the volunteers set up the health screening site.

"There's definitely a lot of interest from the community which we're really very happy about," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

As Perdido resident Bing Esturas said that she went to the event with her husband and lined up as early as 6:30am.

"This is a great program especially for low-income patients and also convenient for those who don't have insurance," said the 44-year-old Esturas.

Ann Santos, 44, said she decided to avail of the free clinical breast exam since she last had her checkup in 2009.

"We should take advantage of this free screening because it helps detect cancer early. With this disease, prevention is important," said the Garapan resident.

Fifty-two-year-old Aida Otokichi, who went to the event with her housemate, said she didn't mind lining up at 6:15am to avail of the free breast exam. "I really hope that DPH will co me up with this program regularly," added Otokichi.

Sablan said those who availed of the free health screenings were from different members of the public: Chamorros, Carolinians, Chinese, and Filipinos.

"I think Sabalu is a great venue for the screening because it attracted a lot of attention in the community. A lot of them came prepared with questions," she added.

Sablan said the event, which initially targeted only women, also caught the attention of men. "The women came with their husbands and friends. The men showed up and we informed them about Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and the forum that we've scheduled."

Tatiana Olopai, CCA project assistant for breast and cervical health outreach program, said that Saturday's turnout was a lot higher than they expected. "It was a really awesome turnout and we'll certainly do it again in the future," she said.

Olopai disclosed that they have already lined up a long list of activities for the CCA trained volunteers, having at least one activity per month.

"We're going to be doing something like this in main areas of the island. We'll be having village tours but we don't have specific target villages yet," added Sablan.

Sablan thanked their volunteers and partners, including the DPH Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, Breast & Cervical Screening Program, HIV/STD Program, the Mobile Clinic, Sabalu Market, and Foremost, which donated 10 cases of fat-free milk as incentive to the public.

Flores wants to retain his 48 FTEs

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores is appealing to the Senate to provide his office enough funding to allow him to retain his 48 full-time employees.

Flores said he would like to retain all 48 FTEs at the Mayor's Office to serve the needs of his constituents.

"I need all 48 FTEs because we're already short of staff as it is," he told *Saipan Tribune* after he signed Wednesday the proclamation designating September as Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

In his proposed 2012 budget submission, Flores asked for $1,245.024 for personnel costs, which cover the salaries of 48 FTEs.

The governor's proposed budget, however, only approved 38 FTEs and a budget of $756,088 for personnel costs.

According to Flores, these FTEs are particularly needed for the implementation of the dog control program and the delivery of other public services to the community.

"I know that the government is tight with money. But all I'm asking is for the Senate to at least maintain the status quo on our budget," said the mayor.

The Senate is expected to act this week on the $102-million budget passed by the House of Representatives last week. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

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Man files $100,00 lawsuit over police brutality

» Cop allegedly hit him with gun's butt, repeatedly kicked him

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man is suing the Department of Public Safety and a former police officer who allegedly hit him with a gun's butt and repeatedly kicked him after mistaking him for someone else.

Jin Dong Wang, through counsel Robert J. O'Connor, sued former police officer Jesse Dubrall for assault and battery, false arrest, emotional distress, violation of civil rights, and negligence.

Wang, a Chinese national, sued DPS for negligence and violation of civil rights. He also named former DPS commissioner Santiago F. Tudela as a co-defendant for violation of civil rights and negligence.

He is seeking at least $100,000 in damages.

The plaintiff asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order DPS to implement procedures to prevent the use of excessive force and assault of arrested persons in the future.

O'Connor stated in the complaint that the incident happened on Oct. 18, 2010, at 8pm, at Wang's second floor apartment in As Lito.

Wang had gone outside his unit to go to another apartment unit when he saw two persons on the first floor of the apartment shining a flashlight up at him. One of the two men came up. Wang did not know who they were but thought that the man with a gun was a policeman.

O'Connor said the man with a gun, later identified as Dubrall, told Wang to get down. Wang stopped walking. Dubrall, suddenly and without provocation, allegedly hit Wang's head with the gun's butt and kicked him in the ribs and buttocks several times.

O'Connor said that Dubrall handcuffed Wang's hands behind his back and took his wallet. Dubrall then went inside the house while Wang was lying on the floor, bleeding.

O'Connor said that Wang heard his wife arrive, park downstairs, call him, and asked him what happened. Wang then heard his wife screaming: "Save my husband. We are good people. We are Christians. Help."

Wang heard his wife talking to police officers downstairs and also heard people behind him in the hallway.

O'Connor said a police officer came, removed Wang's handcuffs, and helped him up. Wang saw a male police officer (not Dubrall) and two female officers, who took his shirt off and wrapped it around his bloodied head.

Wang and the officers went downstairs together, put Wang on a chair, and cleaned the blood on his head.

O'Connor said the officer showed Wang's wife a picture of a certain Qiu Junding and asked if she knew him.

Wang's wife answered that Junding is a neighbor in the same building and told them to talk to the owner of the building who lives in the first room upstairs.

A police officer then asked for Wang's umbrella permit. The wife went upstairs to get the umbrella permit.

O'Connor said a friend of the Wang couple, who spoke English, arrived and told the police officers that Wang was seriously injured. An ambulance was called and Wang was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

At CHC, Wang's wife saw another police officer and reported the assault on Wang.

"As a proximate result of Dubrall's use of unreasonable force, Mr. Wang suffered severe injuries on his head, abdomen, buttocks, and legs. He felt dizzy, weak and nauseous," O'Connor said.

Wang, the lawyer added, also suffered concussion, rib contusion, spine contusion, blurred vision, and post-traumatic nightmares.

O'Connor said Wang's injuries required referral to medical specialists and medical attention for several months.

"He is still recovering from his injuries," O'Connor said.

The lawyer said Dubrall committed grave misconduct and abuse of authority when he assaulted Wang with a gun. He said DPS investigated and found that assault and battery and assault with a dangerous weapon were committed against Wang.

O'Connor believes that Dubrall, DPS, and 10 unnamed co-defendants illegally entered Wang's premises. He said Dubrall assaulted an innocent civilian because of mistaken identity and is therefore liable for the assault on Wang.

O'Connor said that DPS and then commissioner Tudela failed to fulfill their duties by failing to properly train and supervise Dubrall in the appropriate use of force and in preventing the officer from using excessive force.

'NMC will lose $6M in critical federal grants'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

If the House-adopted budget bill for fiscal year 2012 is enacted into law, hundreds of students will be deprived of assistance and services at the Northern Marianas College because it will not qualify for critical federal grants, according to Board of Regents chair Juan T. Lizama yesterday.

The $102 million spending plan, which the House passed last week, proposes to give NMC just $4 million in fiscal year 2012. The measure is now with the Senate, pending action this week.

Lizama said the $4 million budget is $1.2 million short of the maintenance-of-effort requirement for the College Access Challenge Grant program, which help students enroll, remain, and succeed in college. It targets native Pacific Islanders and those who come from low-income families.

According to the chairman, if the MOE is not met, the grant will not be funded. The cumulative effect of not receiving the grant award is a loss of $6 million--$1.5M for four years--in sorely needed federal funds and the loss of services and assistance provided to about 8,000 students, or 2,000 students a year over a four-year period.

"In order to meet the MOE requirement for the CACG award, the current fiscal year appropriation must equal or exceed the average of the preceding five fiscal years' level of support," said Lizama.

He disclosed that the average appropriation to NMC from 2007 to 2011 is about $5.2 million.

"We understand and appreciate the difficult task that legislators have in preparing a budget in light of diminishing revenues. At the same time, more than ever, we want to stress that an investment in higher education directly impacts the CNMI's workforce development and economic growth," said Lizama.

Prior to the passage of the budget bill in the House, NMC president Dr. Sharon Hart appealed to the lawmakers to give the institution $5.2 million, emphasizing the critical need to maintain programs for students.

The limited budget and further cuts for the college may also threaten its accreditation efforts because commission standards require adequate funding for the college.

Hart disclosed that accreditation qualifies NMC and its students for $7.8 million each year in federal financial aid and federal program. Further cuts in the college's budget would mean jeopardizing the ability of students and the college to avail of these funds.

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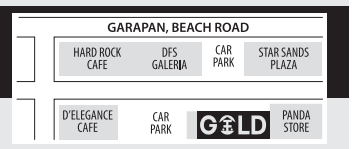

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House JGO panel OKs Second Political Status Commission bill

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations is recommending full House passage of a bill seeking to create a Second Marianas Political Status Commission, which will re-examine whether people still want to continue the islands' political relationship with the United States pursuant to the terms of the original Covenant agreement.

House Bill 17-7 could be acted on during the House's next session, scheduled either for Wednesday or later this week.

JGO Committee chair Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) said the panel feels it has "justifiable reasons to support a Commonwealth return to the negotiation table with the United States in the matter of revisiting the areas of self-government and its political status with the U.S."

The committee also said in its findings that the U.S. government has made unilateral decisions on matters where the CNMI has declared opposing views, including the submerged lands issues and the Marine Monument.

It also said that White House documents circa 1963 contained "several condescending comments and discussions about the inability of 'Micronesians' to properly govern themselves because of their lack of education and other issues."

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of the bill, said he's been introducing this bill since he first served in the 7th Legislature up to the current 17th Legislature, except in the 11th and 14th Legislatures.

"I'm thankful that the JGO Committee recommended passage of this bill. I'm hoping that the Senate will pass it when the House passes it this week," Torres said.

Under the bill, the Second Marianas Political Status Commission will examine the provisions of the Covenant, review the actions of the United States in interpreting and implementing the Covenant, review and examine alternative political and economic status options for the CNMI, and make one or more recommendations regarding a desirable future political status to the Commonwealth Legislature for approval by the CNMI in a plebiscite under Commonwealth law.

The committee said the enactment of HB 17-7 will initially cost the CNMI $50,000 for the operations of the Political Status Commission.

"However, the Commonwealth could create a more desirable socio-economy scenario within its boundaries through a more viable self-governing status. Subsequently, this should relate to a better fiscal system of life in our islands, which in turn will translate to a healthier island community," it said.

All the seven members of the JGO Committee signed the report. Besides Demapan and Torres, the other members are vice speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), Rep. Tony Sablan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan).

FIRE CHIEFS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Assistant Fire Chief Stanley Torres and Fire Chief John Thompson are pictured being presented a resolution admitting the Western Pacific Islands Fire Chiefs Association into the International Association of Fire Chiefs Western Division on Aug. 24, 2011, in Atlanta, Georgia during Fire Rescue International. The Western Division of the IAFC states consist of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington and now the U.S. territories and Western Pacific Islands. A representative from each state serves as one of the vice presidents on the board of directors. Torres sits as one of those members representing the WPIAFC as vice president. The WPIAFC was recently formed following two years of preparation to help provide access to training, tactics and practices that help responders perform their duties. It is composed of Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. A delegation from the international chiefs is expected to visit Guam in mid-December to officially welcome their newest territorial addition.

AIRLINE

From Page 1

jubilee of Fr. Isaac "Ike" M. Ayuyu on Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the plan is under discussion with the Marianas Visitors Authority, among other entities.

"There are several ways to do it. One would probably require investment by the government in partnership with the private sector, or as a private effort," he added.

At this time, there's no telling how much the government can invest in such an airline if it chooses to partner with private investors.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), in a separate interview, said it makes sense to also look at direct flights to the CNMI if the government is trying to establish a casino industry on Saipan.

Torres is the author of a local bill seeking to establish casino gambling on Saipan. The bill is now on the governor's desk for action.

"I support this plan to establish a CNMI carrier. Continental stopped direct flights to the CNMI," he added.

The plan could also involve airlines that are already operating in the CNMI or in the region.

"Again, we would like to make it a CNMI carrier. …We will have control over it; by control I mean maybe if we don't make enough money through the airline business, but the multiplier effect of the presence of the tourists brought by that airline company could outweigh any negative financial impact," he said.

Should the plan materialize, a flag carrier could enjoy preferential rights or privileges, accorded by the government, for international operations.

Inos said the planned airline won't directly compete with Continental because the latter no longer flies passengers directly to the CNMI from other countries, but only through Guam.

The acting governor has this to say to private investors who may be interested in an airline business or are already engaged in one: "This is something that the CNMI government supports and that we will work with whoever likes to undertake this project. We believe in this project, we believe there's a market out there. And that we will give the organization the full support from this government. …We need to bring the tourists here."

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said the Chamber has not been part of discussions about establishing a CNMI airline.

The acting governor said that, like most plans, the administration would have liked this to be done soon but there are a lot of things to take into consideration besides investment money, such as going through the permitting process. Marketing the airline also requires at least a 90-day lead time, he added.

"It could be a 737 aircraft with 140 passengers, just like the Continental's aircraft. The first market is Japan. We want to do it because we see some potential in the Japanese market and they're beginning to come back. So we try to concentrate on that," he added.

Inos said the government could also lease an aircraft or two for the planned airline.

The CNMI has Asiana Airlines, Delta Airlines and Fly Guam as official signatory airlines, in addition to those bringing in charter flights such as China Southern, Air China, and Shanghai Airlines.

GOVT

From Page 1

hour work cuts biweekly and unpaid holidays since the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1.

These cuts are expected to continue into fiscal year 2012 as part of the government's austerity measures to be able to live within its $102 million budget, down from the revised budget of $122 million in 2011.

The Legislature said in January that there could be 3,000 to 4,000 unemployed residents based on the number of food stamp recipients without jobs.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, also thanked nonresident workers yesterday for their continued contributions to the CNMI's economic development, and to not lose hope for improved immigration status, especially those who have been in the CNMI for at least five years.

"Now is the time to be more united," he said, referring to the release next week of the transitional Commonwealth-only worker regulations that will set out requirements for foreign workers to be able to work in the CNMI until 2014 without an H visa, among other things.

Syed said that, while many will be covered by the CW regulations, many will not.

"For those who won't be covered, we're still working to help them. I will bring their plight to the Obama administration and the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C. We will continue to request for improved immigration status, particularly green card, pathway to U.S. citizenship," he said.

Syed will be off to Washington, D.C. on Sept. 30 to seek an audience with Congress members to introduce legislation on the U.S. Interior's recommendation to Congress to allow the granting of improved status for foreign workers who have been in the CNMI for at least five years.

"If they have stories or letters they want to share with Washington, D.C., they can give it to me, or call me at 888-4025," he added.

Instead of a peaceful march or a prayer vigil to mark Labor Day, Syed said UWM will only be asking its members to pray for a better community for everyone and to not lose hope.

STAFFERS

From Page 1

passed on time.

Reyes said she continue to seek the Legislature's assistance on the bureau's funding.

"As both houses deliberate on House Bill 17-215, HS1, HD5, I will continue to seek for their compassion on the potential consequences to employees and request for their support in providing us with sufficient funding and for the enactment of a budget," Reyes told staffers.

The House passed a $102 million budget bill on Aug. 31, and transmitted it to the Senate on Sept. 1.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the Senate will pass a budget bill on Sept. 8.

But the Senate has already announced planned changes in the House-passed bill, including increasing funding to Northern Marianas College and the Public School System. Whatever change the Senate does to the budget will have to be voted on by the House.

Another budget deadlock could lead to another partial government shutdown that will force over 1,000 employees out of jobs for days or until a new budget bill is enacted.

Inos wants to meet with Medicare team

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos wants to meet with the team of Medicare representatives during or after the group's inspection at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Inos confirmed Friday that he was briefed by Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez about the presence of the seven-member Medicare team, which has been checking the hospital since Monday last week.

Villagomez, Inos said, is setting up a schedule for his meeting with the group.

The Medicare team's surprise visit is in relation to the investigation it conducted last year where it found numerous deficiencies at the public hospital.

Inos believes the serious financial shortage being experienced at the hospital may not have a grave impact on the overall findings of the Medicare team.

"The Medicare, as I understand, is looking over the facility and the policies—more on the general administration of the hospital. The emergency declaration, meantime, deals with financial aspects of the program. So whether or not Medicare will look into that, it's for them to decide…but we're in denial if we says we don't have problems in the financial aspect of the hospital," said Inos.

CHC, along with Tinian and Rota health centers, was placed under a state of emergency on July 21 due to the lack of supplies and services as a result of unpaid obligations to vendors.

Health Secretary Villagomez, after Friday's proclamation, refused to be interviewed, saying he will just call a press conference later.

The secretary, in a previous visit to his office Thursday, also refused to disclose details about the Medicare visits and said he is not aware as to when the team will complete its inspection.

Judge dismisses attempted kidnapping charge vs firefighter

Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos has dismissed the attempted kidnapping charge filed against a Commonwealth Ports Authority firefighter, who was recently arrested for allegedly assaulting his former girlfriend in the parking lot of Aquarius Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

At a preliminary hearing on Thursday, Inos did not find probable cause to charge Giovanni Camacho Sablan with attempted kidnapping. Inos, however, found probable cause to charge him with two counts of assault and battery and two counts of disturbing the peace.

Inos allowed Sablan to post a $1,000 cash bail and required him to provide a qualified third-party custodian for his temporary release.

Sablan, a mixed martial arts fighter, is also known as "The Fighter" and "Palaksi or "Palaxi." He is a firefighter at CPA's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Unit.

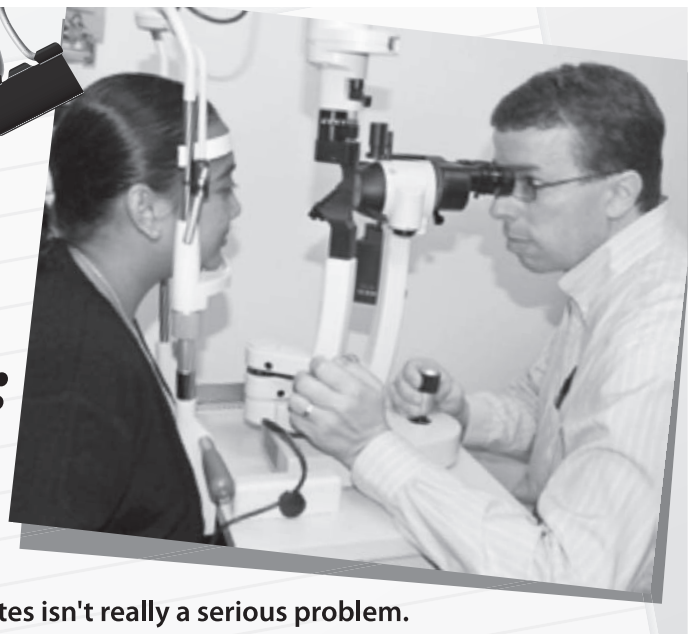
Preliminary investigation showed that on Friday night of Aug. 20, the victim was driving on her way home at 1:35am when a pickup truck pulled up next to her on the outer southbound lane near the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

The truck's window was rolled down and the victim noticed it was Sablan, who was shouting at her to pull over. Sablan allegedly kept swerving his truck back and forth in front of her so she decided to proceed to the parking lot of Aquarius Hotel for safety.

Sablan jumped into the victim's passenger seat, and shouted at her for not answering his text messages and phone calls. The victim ran toward the lobby of the hotel, but Sablan chased her and allegedly grabbed her from behind. The victim screamed for help.

Sablan allegedly threw the victim three times onto her car.

Police said the victim suffered bruises on the left and right shoulders, and abrasions on the left forearm. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***



Please take a moment to take this simple quiz:

Question #1:

True or False

1. Having diabetes isn't really a serious problem.

*False: ***"Diabetes causes more deaths every year than breast cancer and AIDS combined. Two out of three people with diabetes die from heart disease or stroke."*** *Source: American Diabetes Association

Why is there only one question on this quiz—do you really need any more?

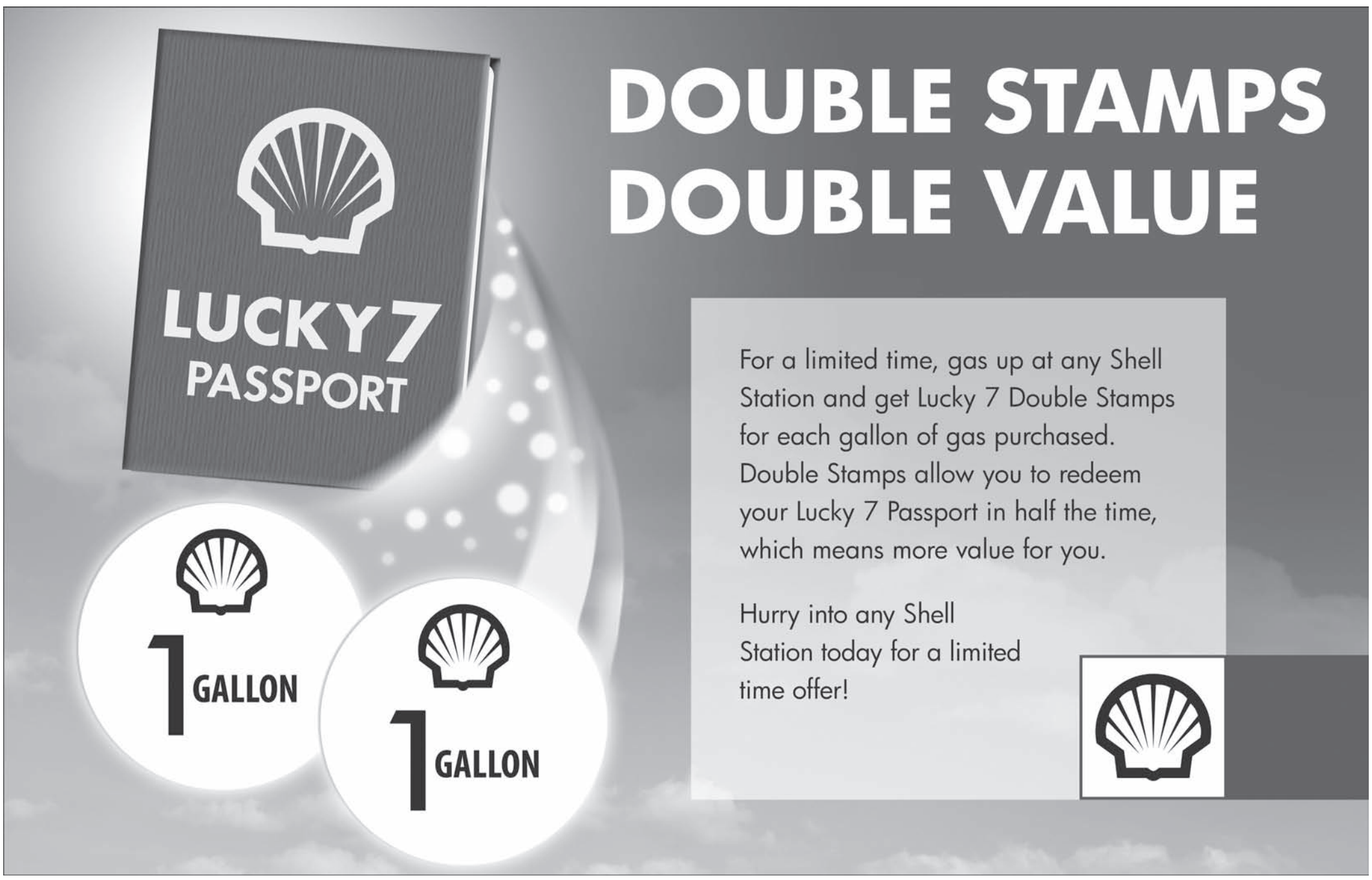
Diabetes is treatable and getting your eyes examined is very important. Diabetes affects vision dramatically and can lead to permanent vision loss. An eye exam is a simple thing to do and it could be the difference between catching diabetes early and getting treatment, or going blind.

HARDT EYE CLINIC

We're here to help and to answer your questions, whether simple or complicated.

235-2030

Yes, we accept your insurance — all major insurance plans accepted.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For a limited time, gas up at any Shell Station and get Lucky 7 Double Stamps for each gallon of gas purchased. Double Stamps allow you to redeem your Lucky 7 Passport in half the time, which means more value for you.
Hurry into any Shell Station today for a limited time offer!

OIL PIPELINE PROJECT

EPA worried that CUC may not meet deadline—again

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has expressed concern that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. may not be able to meet the new deadline for the installation of an oil pipeline due to the slow process in the selection of a construction manager.

CUC agrees that it may not be able to meet the March 15, 2012, deadline. CUC legal counsel Deborah Fisher said the extra amount of time CUC has taken to procure a qualified construction manager likely delayed the project's completion date.

EPA legal counsel Bradley O'Brien, in his report filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, noted that CUC has been in the process of hiring a construction manager to oversee the pipeline construction.

Fisher said CUC went through a procurement process, in which it solicited bids, but none of the initial applicants were approved by EPA and that solicitation was cancelled.

CUC then continued the procurement process with an emergency procurement so that a construction manager could be hired. Fisher said that CUC submitted the name of the selected construction manager on Aug. 11, 2011, and that EPA approved it on Aug. 25, 2011.

The original deadline for CUC to contract and design the pipeline was Aug. 30, 2010. The second joint stipulation entered by EPA and CUC established a June 1, 2011, deadline for the construction.

Mainly due to lack of funding, CUC failed to meet the June 1, 2011, deadline and as a result, a new deadline was set for March 15, 2012.

The CUC pipeline is an eight-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers fuel to CUC power plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base from the Mobil oil facility.

EPA said the pipeline has been poorly maintained and has degraded to a condition that is no longer safe to operate at pressure. Until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, EPA said it poses a threat to United States waters.

Man gets 11-month prison sentence for stabbing wife

A man who beat up and stabbed his common-law wife with a knife at their residence in Kannat Tabla was sentenced last week to 11 months in prison without possibility of parole.

Jeffrey T. Deleon Guerrero was slapped with a five-year prison sentence, all suspended except for 11 months, for aggravated assault and battery.

The 36-year-old Deleon Guerrero is expected to complete his prison term on June 26, 2012, after which he will be placed on probation for five years.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo ordered Deleon Guerrero to pay a $500 fine, $100 court costs and probation fees and required to write a letter of apology to the victim and undergo anger management counseling and alcohol/substance abuse treatment at the Community Guidance Center.

Deleon Guerrero pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal.

According to a police report, the victim tried to hit Deleon Guerrero with a stick July 27. He retaliated by beating her up and stabbing her on the right wrist with a knife. Medics treated her but she refused to be brought to the hospital, police said.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that, according to the victim, she was frustrated because all Deleon Guerrero does is sleep and eat.

In April 2001, a jury found Deleon Guerrero not guilty of murder and all other charges in connection with the slaying of Chinese businessman Zhou Rong in March 2000 at the Yellow House Massage Parlor in San Jose. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Win a limited edition ICE CHEST or T-SHIRT!

For a chance to win submit a photo of yourself using the new L50 ruler or poster – Enter by Aug. 31!

Photos can be dropped at Saipan DFW, DEQ, CRM or NOAA offices or emailed to: marfishmag@gmail.com
Mark it 'Size Matters Contest' with your name and phone number
Visit www.sizematterscnmi.blogspot.com for details!

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-11-050

REHABILITATION OF SEWER LIFT STATION NO. S-3

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Station in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general of the rehabilitation and upgrade of Sewer Lift Station No. 3 located in Lower Base, Saipan. The work shall be done not to disrupt the daily operation of the sewer discharge. The work is inclusive of rehabilitation of the wet well, replacement of pumps, guide rails, control panel cleanup of the basins, repair, replacement, rehabilitation of pipeline, pipes, reconditioning of generator, asphalt paving, etc. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **180 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **August 19, 2011 at 1:00 PM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-11-049, Rehabilitation of Sewer Lift Station No. S-3"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 12, 2011**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one *hundred (100%)* percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one *hundred (100%)* percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00200 - Instructions to Bidders.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Commander, Kenneth Esplin, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kenneth_esplin@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-055

Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for Power Division, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office/warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space may be situated within or adjacent to the warehouse. The office/warehouse must have a loading dock and parking stalls that can accommodate over-sized heavy equipment (e. g. bucket trucks, augers and backhoes). Additionally, the proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning requirements.

The RFP Packet and Specification may be picked-up, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **September 9, 2011 at 1:00 PM (ChST)**, at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-055, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space, Power Division-T&D" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) local time on September 20, 2011**. Late submission will not be considered.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) local time on September 12, 2011** to Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email msablan@cucgov.net; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Muna, CUC Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications, only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Vandals deface Filcom Pavilion

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Filcom Pavilion next to the Civic Center basketball court in Susupe was recently vandalized with a slew of graffiti.

The words "Go home Filipino" and "illegal fraud terror," were discovered spray painted on the newly renovated pavilion's green concrete bench wall facing the road around Sept. 3.

The Filipino Community Foundation Inc. funded the rehabilitation of the pavilion, which had its ribbon cutting ceremony last Jan. 31.

The vandalism comes at a time when the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced that it will publish the long-awaited final regulations governing foreign workers in the CNMI on Sept. 7 EST (Sept. 6 local time).

"The Filipino Community Foundation Inc. feels saddened by this unfortunate incident," said foundation secretary Eddie Caranzo in a phone interview yesterday, noting that more graffiti were found by their officer on the inside walls of the pavilions benches.

Caranzo said that their group toiled on that project, contributing time, efforts and resources to rehabilitate the pavilion that was originally built in 1978.

"I will convene with other officers of the Filipino Community Foundation Inc., including president Maribel Loste and treasurer Alice Abueme, to talk about our plan of action to address this situation," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Caranzo added that they will report the incident to the Division of Parks and Recreation under the Department of Land and Natural Resources. He noted that the pavilion was endorsed to the division following its renovation.

Julie Cunanan, a former officer of the organization between the late '80s to early '90s, said the pavilion was built through the hard work of their officers and members.

"We thought of something we could donate to the Saipan community as a whole and not just the Filipinos," said Cunanan. The pavilion was constructed "for the use of everyone."

"I am sad," said Cunanan. "I think that the mentality of the person/s who wrote that was that the pavilion was solely for Filipinos but it's not. The way it was written, it was unpleasant."

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said that although he is disappointed about the vandalism, he believes that it's not a general sentiment of the local community.

"Of course I'm disappointed. But it does not reflect the general opinion of Chamorros and Carolinians. It should not affect the relationship of our peoples," said Macaraig in an interview at the free health screening for Filipino workers yesterday.

Bong Malasarte, president of United Filipino Organization, echoed Macaraig's comment that the graffiti on the pavilion does not reflect the opinion of the entire island.

Malasarte encouraged the Filipino community to focus their time and effort on their respective jobs.

"Let's not mind these negative comments and just continue to do the best of our abilities with our jobs. What matters is we're working hard instead of responding to these negative criticisms," he said.

The Filcom Pavilion next to the Civic Center basketball court in Susupe is vandalized with a slew of graffiti.
CLARISSA DAVID

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION
GROUP HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE TRUST FUND

FINANCIAL AUDITS
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF11-005
AMENDMENT NO. 1

OPENING DATE: August 22, 2011 CLOSING DATE: September 21, 2011

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is soliciting sealed proposals to perform a financial audit of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF), Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC), and Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund (GHLITF) for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2011 and 2012. To receive the RFP package, you may mail, fax or e-mail your request to:

Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247 CK
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
Fax No. 670-664-8080
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

There will be a pre-proposal conference on Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at 9:00 am in the Fund Conference Room, Capitol Hill Saipan. Questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing to Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator, Fax No. (670) 664-8080 or emailed to administrator01@nmiretirement.com no later than September 1, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

//s// Richard S. Villagomez
Administrator

NATIONAL-CNMI
IMPAIRED DRIVING
CRACKDOWN
LABOR DAY WEEKEND
August 19th thru September 5th, 2011
BAM! YOUR LIFE JUST CHANGED.
Drive drunk and you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICIAL SEAL
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DRIVE SOBER OR GET PULLED OVER

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP 11-GOV-121

Legal Services For
Water Task Force
(Funded by the Dept. of Interior)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified individuals or firms for Legal Services for the Water Task Force on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This contract for professional services will be funded by grant funds from the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior.

The proposal package will be available on or after **August 15, 2011** at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan or by request faxed to (670) 664-1515.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 PM, August 24, 2011** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number: (670) 664-2279.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local proposers in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Legal Services", RFP 11-GOV-121** One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Proposals must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 pm, September 14, 2011 (CNMI local time).**

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB11-GOV-004

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the **PAPAGO WATERLINE IMPROVEMENT** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority form the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed)

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds form a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award fo this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Install approximately 6,900 linear feet of 8 inch underground PVC waterlines and 500 linear feet of 6 inch underground PVC waterline with appurtenant valves, fittings, air relief valves and blow-off valves.
- Install service laterals and water meters.
- Connect to existing waterlines.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving.
- Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- Conduct the area topographic and easement surveys.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **August 8, 2011** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on **August 19, 2011**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquires shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquires must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **August 18, 2011.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked **"IFB-GOV-004"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **September 6, 2011.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **September 6, 2011**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **September 6, 2011**, and must be received no later than **September 15, 2011**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 3:00 pm local time, **September 16, 2011**. However, if no Notices of intent to bid were received from the bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **September 7, 2011**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/S/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

'Alcohol and marijuana are not part of the local culture'

Anti-alcohol and anti-drug addiction advocates came together Friday to express concern about the alarming number of island residents who suffer from substance use disorders and to call for changes in community behavior that fosters these addictions.

Cris Sablan, a confessed former victim of substance use disorder and now substance prevention program supervisor at the Commonwealth Guidance Center, said these disorders are curable and preventable.

Like non-communicable diseases, Sablan believes that alcohol and drug addiction, along with mental illnesses, must be classified as diseases that can be treated.

He strongly disagreed with the perception of many in the community that "alcohol" is part of the local culture and thus cannot be prevented.

"It's been emphasized in our community and our culture that drinking is part of the local culture…and I have to object to that. We have to stand up. Let's do our family gatherings without these alcohol drinks and other substances. Let's stay away from the practice of making them part of our celebrations," he told the crowd during the proclamation signing on Friday to designate September 2011 as national alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month in the Commonwealth. This year's theme is "Join the voices for recovery: now more than ever."

"Substance use disorders are a treatable, yet serious health care problem, and our community must take steps to address it," states the proclamation signed by acting governor Eloy S. Inos at the Office of the Governor's conference room.

Activities are now being prepared for the monthlong occasion, with the Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Coalition taking the lead in collaboration with various entities and groups. The coalition is led by former Department of Public Safety commissioner Clyde Norita.

Norita said outreach programs such as counseling on three islands are among the highlights of the coalition's initiatives. He said that what is particularly alarming is that majority of those with alcohol and substance addictions are young adults.

Norita is convinced that prevention remains the key factor in addressing substance abuse disorders. "I believe that prevention is far better approach than enforcement, which is after the fact and damage has been done. With the coalition taking the lead, in collaboration with partner groups and entities, we can help more people enter the path to recovery," he told *Saipan Tribune*. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 5, 2001

Consortium confident on prison project

A business consortium is optimistic that the chances of its nearest competitor to get the multi-million dollar contract for the Saipan prison facility have perished for failure to file an appeal on time. Telesource CNMI, Inc. has not appealed the decision of Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan that effectively favored the chances of the joint venture of Western Equipment, Inc. and DRC Pacific, Inc.WEI-DRC counsel Stephen J. Nutting remained positive on the possibility that the Department of Public Works has been reviewing his client's bid offer so that an award of the project contract can eventually be made.

Tinian school gets new bus

The Tinian Elementary School announced the arrival of its new Special Education bus, which can accommodate ten students; three wheel chairs and seven regular seats. Rodel Manlulu, Bus Services Supervisor, said, "This new bus came at the right time." He explained, "The old Special Education van is about ten years old and constantly breaking down and needing repairs." Manlulu said the old van, which seats only three, had problems since the second week of school. "We really don't want to operate it because it dies on the road all the time." According to PSS Transportation Administrator Jess Sanchez, the new minibus was purchased through a federal grant.

Sept. 5, 2002

Mayor claims majority's backing on project site

Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona yesterday said he has the backing of some 800 people-about two-thirds of the island's voting population-in connection with the dispute over the location of CIP projects, threatening the Rota Legislative Delegation that their opposition would mean "political suicide." The dispute has delayed the implementation of the projects, although federal funds have been made available, Manglona said. "Rota's Legislative Delegation holds up public works projects. They frustrate work badly needed to stimulate our local economy, provide jobs, and fuel private business," Manglona said. "We have the money. We're ready to build. The architect and engineer bids are out. The Legislative Delegation creates a logjam."

Tourism council eyes grassroots campaign

A new non-profit organization that aims to heighten the community's awareness on the importance of tourism for the well being of CNMI residents has formally organized. The Marianas Tourism Education Council's board of directors met recently to discuss immediate plans, which initially include registering as a chartered corporation and the formation of school-based tourism clubs. The non-profit organization was established based on the belief that in order for the CNMI to stay competitive in the regional tourism market, it is crucial that "we not only promote the islands 'from outside,' but also 'from within.'"

Sept. 5, 2003

CPA expanding its car rental concession

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is evaluating proposals that would expand its car rental services at the Saipan International Airport in hopes to generate more funds for the airport division. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said plans to increase the car rental services at the airport continue as the ports authority receive proposals from several firms. Salas said the CPA is also looking at ways on how to reduce the prices of the car rental services to encourage more firms to compete with the car rental companies already in operation at the airport.

'Expedite permits for Sugar Dock project'

Sen. David M. Cing has pre-filed a resolution asking all permitting agencies to speed up the release of permits so that the Sugar Dock improvement project can take off. With plans to expand cargo and passenger services between Tinian and Saipan stymied by bureaucratic delays, Cing said Friday it is necessary for these agencies to hasten the release of the permits so that Islands Transport Inc. can begin dredging and improvement works on the dock. "The improvement project will not only give the [Commonwealth Ports Authority] an additional source of revenue but will facilitate more competitive and better Saipan-Tinian cargo and ferry services," said Cing. "This is very important for the people of Tinian as this will also help bring down the cost of consumer goods on the island."

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-036

Gasification or Waste to Energy Generation
ADDENDUM NO. 1
Date: August 26, 2011

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following notice of extension to the deadline for submission of proposals and inquiries to CUC-RFP-11-036:

- **The deadline for submission of proposals has been extended from August 30, 2011 to September 28, 2011;**
- **The deadline for submission of inquiries has been extended to September 19, 2011.**

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-11-036 " Gasification or Waste to Energy Generation"** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 28, 2011**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 19, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via email address wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-11-053
SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Materials for the Talafofo Overhead Power Line Extension Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash or check, in the amount of $100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-11-053, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Materials"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM, (ChST) on September 20, 2011** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of *15 percent* of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Payment and Performance Bond of *one hundred (100%)* percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **September 2, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo_palattao@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-048

Geothermal Energy Development on Saipan, CNMI
ADDENDUM NO. 1

Dated: September 2, 2011

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is issuing the following amendments to CUC-RFP-11-048, Geothermal Energy Development, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marina Islands:

- The initial Scope-of-Work and Proposal Solicitation Notice for CUC-RFP-11-048 has been amended. All registered prospective Offerors will be provided with a complete copy of the amended Scope-of-Work & Proposal Solicitation Notice;
- The deadline for submission of proposals has been extended from September 6, 2011 to November 15, 2011;
- The deadline for submission of inquiries has been extended to November 1, 2011.

Stage 1, Geothermal Gradient Project

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to collect and evaluate scientific data to better determine the potential for development of geothermal energy on Saipan. Available information suggests that the geothermal gradient beneath Saipan may be sufficiently steep to develop geothermal energy to generate electricity.

The technical complexity of the Project and the need to collect and evaluate extensive data will require the successful Proposer to provide the expertise from various professional disciplines, conduct exploratory drilling, and provide equipment and materials necessary to complete the Scope of Work.

The RFP package and Scope-of-Service will be e-mailed to all interested Offeror, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, in the amount of $ 200.00 for one set; by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **September 22, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original, Six (6) copies, and one (1) digitized version (PDF) must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-048 "Saipan Geothermal Development Project" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **November 15, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than **November 01, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Dr. James Quick, CNMI Energy Advisor and Consultant via email address jquick@smu.edu. ; Mr. Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director -Power via email address wallon59@yahoo.com and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to questions and clarifications of prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-052

PROCUREMENT OF SEWER PUMP TRUCKS (VACTOR)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of Two (2) New Sewer Pump Trucks (Vactor) for CUC Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The trucks will jet and vacuum wastewater from the sewer systems. The vehicles should be small enough to work on Saipan's side streets (secondary roadways). The vehicles should be equipped to work at night, in traffic, without a power source.

The RFP packet and specification will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:00 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-11-052, Procurement of Sewer Pump Trucks (Vactor)" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 15, 2011. Offerors are required to complete all Bid Forms. Offerors may supplement this form as appropriate. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email in PDF format, to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered. Proposals shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Proposal will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Offerors are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 0P200 - Instructions to Offeror.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2011 to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Commander, Kenneth Esplin, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email kenneth_esplin@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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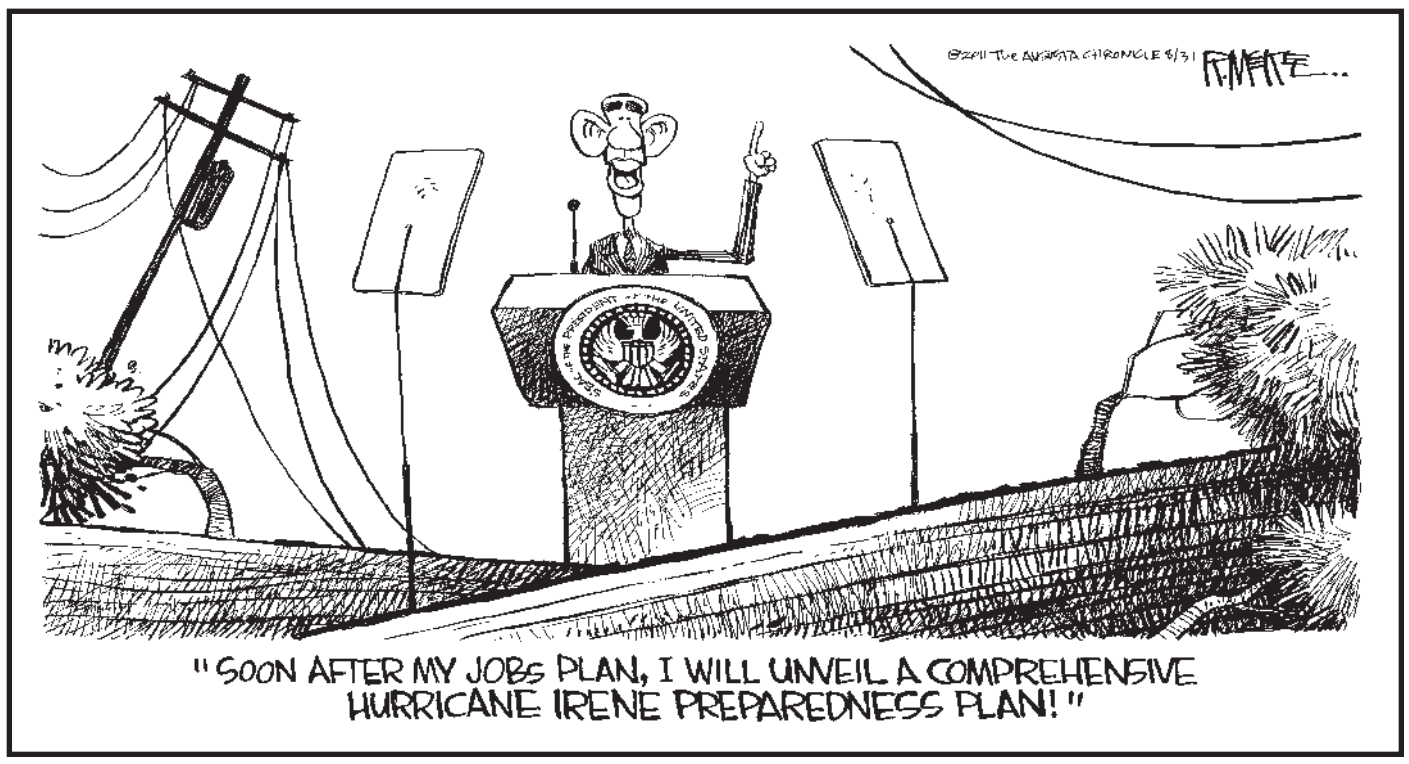
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"SOON AFTER MY JOBS PLAN, I WILL UNVEIL A COMPREHENSIVE HURRICANE IRENE PREPAREDNESS PLAN!"

EDITORIAL

Protecting the nation at any cost has resulted in unnecessary responses

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It was a natural reaction after 9/11: Protect the nation at any cost. But a survey of homeland security projects by Los Angeles Times staff writer Kim Murphy reveals that the "any cost" rationale has resulted in unnecessary and eccentric responses to the possibility of a terrorist act. Congress should block such projects in the future.

For example, Murphy told of a grant for anti-terrorism equipment to a county in Nebraska, which received thousands of dollars for cattle nose leads, halters and electric prods — in case terrorists waged biological warfare against cows. Glendale, Calif., got a $205,000 grant, which it used to purchase a 9-ton BearCat armored vehicle, one of more than 300 deployed across the country. (Officials feared that terrorists might target DreamWorks Animation or the Disney creative campus.) In one case in New York, the connection of a $3-million grant to counter-terrorism was a mystery even to the beneficiaries.

It is hard to evaluate the efficacy of security arrangements — think of the elaborate airport screening by the Transportation Security Administration — because no terrorist act has occurred. Supporters also can always argue that the absence of incidents proves that the system works. (We're skeptical, though, about the deterrent value of cattle prods.) But the deterrent argument is more plausible in some places than in others. That's why planners should concentrate on the "where" of security precautions rather than the "what."

The truth is that not all potential terrorist targets are equal. It's prudent to have elaborate preparations for New York, Washington and even Los Angeles (although a BearCat might not have much utility in a terrorist attack). But grants for homeland security projects in smaller cities or rural or suburban areas seem more like pork than precaution. And it's no excuse for those communities to say that the BearCats and other high-end equipment can be used for routine police functions. If Congress wants to fund local law enforcement, it knows how to do so. But it shouldn't characterize such largesse as a response to 9/11.

With the anniversary of those attacks approaching, homeland security is the ultimate sacred cow, which explains why the federal and state governments are spending $75 billion a year on security. But Murphy's article makes a persuasive case that many of the grants to localities are unnecessary or poorly conceived. Congress and the Department of Homeland Security need to review current grant procedures and target federal funds where they are most needed.

A single terrorist incident can be devastating to large numbers of people, as 9/11 demonstrated. That doesn't mean the nation needs to be blanketed with state-of-the art equipment, some of it only tangentially related to terrorism. In homeland security, as in other areas, choices must be made.

Reenergizing the economy from within

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Today let's face some hard facts about how to help ourselves and also reenergize the economy. For some of us the only salvation seems to be that we have to sell our morals, dignity, and become pimps. To those people, outside investors are the only solutions. But let's look inside the CNMI and discover the energy and potential that surround us.

The CNMI has thousands of acres of untilled soil ready for a booming agriculture industry. There are tons of produce and fruit that we can grow year round. But then to some of us, farming is not sexy like casinos and marijuana growing. For those of us who believe like this, read the July 11 issue of *Time Magazine* about farming in the U.S. It is booming and farmers are becoming wealthy and are producing tons and tons of food for themselves and the world. Our fertile land is like a mother feeding her children, never tired but always willing to give. Yet we sit on the same acres of diamonds and "cannot see the trees for the forest."

With the development of an air cargo bridge, we will be able to transport our goods to Guam, which is a huge market for our produce and fruits. As mentioned before, Guam imports over $4.4 million per month of fresh produce, fruits, cut flowers, pork, and other fresh commodities. We haven't even discussed the fish market. We have a professional fishing company on Saipan with several large fishing vessels. They can supply tons of fish caught in local waters but how to get them to Guam? Only with an air cargo bridge.

We are only a few minutes away from a gigantic market. Please study with me and my group how viable this venture can become. What a splendid opportunity lies waiting for us. Think about the opportunity to become one family after so many years of separation. Only by joining hands in economic cooperation, Guam and the CNMI can truly become partners and good neighbors.

Everyday while driving around the island, I notice several construction sites underway. If I am not mistaken, about 99.9 percent of the workers are non-locals. They work hard and do good work. But what if we were to turn that around and have 99.9 percent local employees?

Consider 500 local laborers earning an average of $900 per month. This amounts to $450,000 per month but times 12 months will equal $5.4 million salaries paid to local people. Consider the amount of money that would remain in the CNMI for circulation in the community and for taxes. Instead of paying that amount to non-local workers, which is then exported to their home countries with little benefit to us, we keep it local. Why can't we implement this? Are we too lazy to work in construction?

Imagine the fewer number of people who will not have to stand in line for food stamps but proudly be earning a living with their hands and heart. Yes, we must give those jobs to our people. We must change our present state of having nonresident workers do our work. No, I am not against nonresident workers. I respect and appreciate their hard work and loyalty, but it is time to put our own people to work. If they don't want to work, then discontinue their food stamps. It is called "tough love."

Another method to creating jobs is to protect our fledging businesses and industries from unfair foreign competition. As most countries do to protect their fledging industries, I strongly recommend the government impose an import duty on any product that can be produced locally. As an example, we grow bananas. If an importer desires to import bananas, an import duty of perhaps 20 to 25 percent can be imposed. This money will go to the general fund while also giving an incentive to our banana farmers to grow more bananas.

By imposing an import duty to protect our fledging industries, our people will be motivated to create and grow more local products. The tax imposed will go to the general fund. This is standard practice for many countries, including the United States. As a result we lessen the amount of money we export and circulate it in our community. Think about it!

It seems strange that a great silence has fallen on the rich ore deposits of pozzolan that lie a few miles north of us. We seem to have strangely forgotten all about it and go rushing off into another direction. If the island does really possess this rich ore of pozzolan, it is like gold and should be quickly mined and sold abroad. What is the problem? The discussion has been going on for years. Why are we overlooking this opportunity? The market is still available.

Can it be that we do not understand how business operates on the world markets? If that is the case then let's turn these opportunities over to people who know how to operate them for us, but with us as partners. Think of the income this dormant opportunity offers us. Why are we ignoring it while crying that we have no resources?

Let's discuss what we consider our most important industry in the CNMI—tourism. Why are the tourist numbers dropping? Is it the world recession? Are the other tourist spots suffering as much as we are? Why is Guam not having this problem of drop in tourism? Why is Hawaii not having the same problem? Why are more and more tourists going to Palau instead of coming to us?

Specifically what are we doing to beautify our islands to make them more attractive so that when our guests go home, they either want to return or speak favorably about their visit to us? Are we really pushing programs motivating and educating our people to welcome our guests?

Do we have any bed and breakfast homes? Briefly a bed and breakfast home is one in which a family opens their home to tourists. In this manner tourists get to stay in local homes while enjoying a closer friendship with local people. Of course the family gets paid for their services. This could offer an extra income to the family while enjoying and sharing their warm hospitality with foreign guests.

Some people have mentioned that the CNMI could become a center for foreign students to study English and other subjects in preparation for going to American colleges or simply mastering English studies. This would be done while living in a beautiful tropical island. I commend the Eucon School that is quietly doing exactly this. What a clean and golden opportunity we are turning our noses up at. We could become a center for international studies. Come on, think about this potential.

Yes, weekly I keep rambling about the opportunities that are

See ECONOMY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Outsource Labor Day to China

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Andy Borowitz hacks honey with a sharp wit. His short tweets that regularly grace our mailbox notes that American labor has been outsourced elsewhere, notably in China so the traditional barbecue this day, he announced, will be in the outskirt of Beijing. He adds that we shall follow it up with Thanksgiving Day in India, and we will celebrate it by phone, so be prepared to see (turkey in curry?) something else on the menu!

This is comedy with a tart taste, which is quite different from the venomous political rant of the right, and the inane liberal whining of the left. There is going to be a lot of ranting and whining this Labor Day as summer comes to an end and the political campaign season intensifies.

Labor's image in the United States is sanitized from its rough beginnings, particularly the Chicago Haymarket riot/massacre when a bomb blew up at a workers march, catching eight police officers and several civilians down from friendly fire in the melee, ensuing in a highly publicized prosecution of known anarchists, a black eye in U.S. jurisprudence, with the execution of four and the suicide of one. Prosecution conceded that none of the accused had anything to do with the bomb that triggered the mayhem, but no matter.

The Haymarket incident resulted in the International May Day commemoration but Cleveland distanced the nation by getting Congress to pass a law mandating all States to observe the first Monday of September as Labor Day.

The power of labor unions in America flamed during the industrial era when productive manufacturing industries fueled by World War II led the economy, but the financial market subsequently took the other markets into globalization; labor unions shifted out of the factories to public sector employee membership. Neo-cons zero in on the entrenched collective bargaining gains of teachers (but not the police) as the culprit in the failure to balance public sector budgets.

The CNMI labor force is solely in the public sector (except PSS' phobia of teachers' union) since workers had no chance to organize during the garment industry days, and a drive to unionize hotel workers failed. Unions do not smell good in Commonwealth fresh airs; the patronage nature of politics will not allow employees, civil service eligible or not, to go against the wishes of patrons.

Thus, only CNMI government employees commemorate Labor Day, if at all. In U.S. mining, farming, manufacturing, et al, labor classes disappeared long ago in the financial system of our current economy. They are employees of corporations creating phantom wealth. Fishing has become recreational, and farming is a gentleman's preoccupation with docile plantation help from exploited import labor. We do produce half of China's soybean import but I suspect, that has more to do with balance of trade rather than China's failure to produce its own. Our limping visitors' industry survives on the roulette of revolving owners but any earnings fly out faster than it arrives. Local income derives from Uncle Sam's apron, and no amount of casino investment is going to resuscitate the old guy from its debt-ridden internal hemorrhaging.

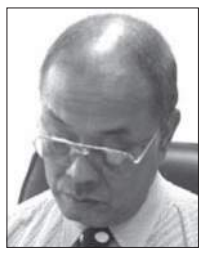
The United States' unemployment rate is high. We outsource labor to where it is cheapest to produce consumer goods for the U.S. market, leave menial labor and demanding farm work to immigrants, ignore untrained workers in the technology and the metaphors of the information age, gamble on jaded stock markets, equate jobs-livelihood-profession-vocation as the same, and have government service as the tolerated unproductive sector. That, or the young join the armed services and are senseless fodder for irrational wars, hang on to scholarships available in the public sector, and when everything else fails, angrily but surreptitiously take on the dole made available by the nation's social net.

Returning to manufacturing of consumer goods is not cost effective. Failure to innovate left Detroit's gas-guzzling automobile industry biting the dust behind Japan, Korea and now, China, but American ingenuity in energy conservation and other green industries is patently at the cutting edge, and if we have the humility enough to forego American hegemony and imperialism, we might partner with the two emergent economies of China and India, not for heaping more phantom wealth unto our side of the ledger, but to really deal with a planetary economy of sustainable resource utilization, democratic production schemes, and equitable distribution of goods and services.

A major shift needs to happen if we labor in that direction, getting priorities and decision-making processes out of Wall Street, including, alas, our banking systems that lost sight of their function as a medium of exchange rather than as merciless lords who subjugate the general public with usurious fees for services.

We said a mouthful, but then, it is Labor Day! The rants and whining of politicos this day will not compare to ours. Obama might even have something worth listening to, but half of us can't get past his name, let alone, the color of his skin. Beijing BBQ, anyone?

Priniponen mapunu' ayudu gi man-namase'



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Unu gi kuattru na priniponen para umasatba probleman fondun programan man-ritirau i para umapunu' ayudu para i man-malañgu yan mas man-na'mase'.

Esta hu upus sasalaguan para bai' ke komprende kau magahet i estorian gaseta. Rason? Hafa na para i mas man-namase' linala' niha para in' itut ayudu ni maresisibe pagu? Anog klaru hafa na karetatibun tautau hamyu, parehu ha' i membron i board programan man-ritirau yan konsuttadot miyu.

Kau siña in' faisen 'nos kuantos administrasion yan lehislatura tatte kau este na premiu sineda' niha i para u fan masen punu' i man-malañgu? Kau justisia para i man-malañgu na siha pagu para u kinatga malabidan niha gi ma'pos na trenta'i dos años? Kau este na prinipone solu nina' siñan i programa yan offisiat publiku i para in' ñikut haanen mas man-na'mase'?

Megai gi entre man-malañgu esta kulan man-masimientu tatautau niha kontra wheel chair, diariu. Megai lokue' umususune dialysis tres biahe gi semana para u fan makula haga' niha. Kumeke ilegña este na kondision na matai reñihion niha mina' mana fan gagas haga' niha ginen i makina.

Dalai ya taiguenau heñun miyu i para i mas man-tai nina' siña finenina para in' sen punu' linala' niha. Faisen ayu siha na gobietno yan lehislatura i fumatañgaye i apas kontribusion hafa mas gaige gi mañgas chininan niha ke este na diskuidu i pumalolopu' hit pagu. Lastima i promesan para uma-adelanta haanen i linahyan. Este pagu na sasalaguan guinifen miyu?

'Nai añglu' i tipu' paraisu

I gaston utilidat, fuetsau ha huchum lamegai na pettan bisnis siha guine. I H-Mark uttimu humuchum-gue' pot este dichu na rason. Ilelegña na inipos guaguan i apas kandet na esta ti sinedegue' mamatinas ganansia.

Este na sentimentu ha ta'lon umeku (re-echo) finu' otru siha man-ladañkulu na kometsiante ni dumiñgu tano'ta guine gi alacha. Yangin ni ganansia, tat baliña sumaga yangin puru ha' para huyuñg. Mas guaguan bumisnis guine giya Marianas!

Este na chinatsaga, mampos ha estotbayu' port rason na yangin taya' adelanton i tetehnan na tropan kometsiante, pues añgoghu na mas kohu i kahan iya Marianas. Guse'ña fuetsau lamegai na empleau u fan madispacha ginen che'cu' niha gi ti apmam yan pagu.

I komunidan bisnis kulan makenaria yan haga' i tanu'. Gigon fontun ya sumaunau mañufa' mattiñgan, pues ti chagu' gi santatte 'nai man-gaige hit mamifila para ta yoguan maisa hit gi kantit dibi.

■■■

Atan ya un' gef atan

I man-guelota tat mattiru ti masuñgon pot i manatatte na famaguon niha. Todu klasen minamahlau machah'lau dibuenamente. Lau ni unu man-isague pot man-gaige ha' i pidasus niha gi santatte.

Maseha mamoble, ni unu umatrebigue' tumulaika i pisun onrau yan antau na tradision natibu. Todu i mas man-didog na chinatsaga masuñgun gi halom chubaskon linau yan dilubiun pineble. Ayu ha' premiun niha i man-gaige hit guine pot ginen pinasensian yan minesñgon niha.

Yangin un' lañgag tumulaikan ñaihon linala' tradision tanu' pot attifisiu yan ma'lag na guinife ni hagas ti hayuta, pues repite finu' un' kantata ni ilegna, "...lau ti siña hu tulaika sa' tat mas gefsaga, kumu ayu siha na islas i islas Marianas."

Gi finu' un' amku, "Esta listuyu' humanau. Unu minagofhu i ni unu gi famaguonhu huna' tekun pot malabidahu ti kombene". Mauleg ta suñgun hafa guinahata sa' bira birada guaha ha' siempre mas antau na rinispueta gi halom maseha hafa na chubasku.

■■■

Puti finapos un' poblen guma' lau man-magof yan mañgontentu ham gi todu mattiru ni in'fagchae' mona. Taya' yanu na plaset yan lamegai fina' hagu' gi tanu' mamoble. Entre gualu, tasi yan taduñg na halom tanu in' bisita pot prebinsion familia.

Man-eskuela ham antes sin school lunch program. Lokue' in' lachai gumulusune sin petmission tinanom estudiante siha fioles, tumates, abuchuelas yan otru siha fina' golai. Kontodu asigan guaka in' kanu' kulan totchen golai ni in' saulag ginen i hatdin estudiante. Daflogue, dispues na chadeg hau guatu i drinking fountain antes de mina' dos na kampana.

■■■

Ai, sali ham ni dumiñgu i gima' an oga'an sin alimientu de man-ñgaha' hulu' gi lañget. Dispues de eskuela yan doktrina, tulus hau para i gualu esta'i minachom atdau. Famokat tatte gi gima' ya un' alulaye tarehamu antes de sena, lisayu, yan estudiu. Lau ni unu sumeha ginen pinitsigen presisu siha na tinagu' yan antau na finana'guen mañainan mame.

■■■

'An chatagmag, inna' masa i amotsa gi oran 'las kuattro antes de oran misa gi hilu' foggun hayu. De hemunos kau chata'an yan mamañglu, debi i amotsa u masa. Me'nan foggun hayu-yu' ni makreansa 'sino malulug muna' masa sentadan familia. Manñge na hinegsa i manalagun hilu'guafe. Buente ayu na sumen manñge, todu nina'lagun nana. Ha payune uson guafe gi finatinasña siha.

■■■

Megai gi entre man-chai idathu chumage lañan 'an aflitu ni mana'ye gi hilu' mamaipe na hinegsa' yan dididi. soyu'. Hombre, bokan poble pot taya' totche. Guaha na tiempu 'nai hu imbelekeruye pot ginacha' kulan hu tañgan naihon pot para 'bai na satisfechu paladathu. Paire na amotsa ke Breakfast of Champions!

■■■

Hu soda' un pupueñge i amku sumesena kihadas yan ilun un' dañkulu na dofin ni mana' masan masahañg gi hilu foggun. Sumehayu lau dipsues hu chule'guan ni na'ña sa' ai na pairen boka piot ya un' totche gi fina deni ni esta malala'et ni pinikaña. Diberas, deste ayu na tiempu hu usune muna' gasgas ilun dofin yan kachu' sa' paire na sentadan poble.

■■■

'Nai macho'chu'yu' antes gi Saipan Stevedore muna' tunog kostat nobienta libra na simientu tula noche, sige hu adu' kau guaha oran sena. Mattu dispues oran boka. Gi halom kusina, estaba dos kalahen kaddun tolañg guaka yan man-dañkulu siha na pidasu.

Pot primet biahe 'nai hulie' man-dañkulu na pidason tolañg manmakadon machaleg 'sino sañkaron. Ilegña un' amku' na para bai' fanhakot 'sino dimalasyu. Ensegidas hu chule' patteghu ya sumuhayu. Hu birayu' para bai' fañule' talu lau esta fondun satten ha'. Ha agañgyu otru amku' para bai' chule' seblaña. Haf" na sentadan tiempon Samson.

■■■

Manñge' magahet sentadan natibu lau mi-sustansia tat kumu mantika yan esta fafa'et ni kantidan asiga. Guaha lokue' na mamames pot inipos ayinomoto'. Para un' siña chumochu' bokan natibu debi un' makalamya yan lokue' muñga ma-ambentuye sa' hagu ha' dada'da'. Gigon un' daflogue i kaddon tolañg, maulegña chamu a'asun gi menan television sa' haf" siempre na mapotge babuen Buninas hau dispues de un' mes.

■■■

Gi lanchon Tagpochau, in' kreni kase dose ni man-mamigan

See PRINIPONEN on Page 13

ECONOMY

From Page 10

around us. No, I don't know the answers, but we must keep seeking for opportunities. I am offering suggestions. I am sure you know some other ways and means better than I do. Let's look around and see what others are doing. We cannot simply just give up and say there is nothing we can do but just get deeper and deeper in a depression. NO! I do not want to believe it and will not.

If anybody is willing to get together and discuss activities on how to help ourselves and improve our economy, I welcome that person to call me and meet and toss ideas around. My cell is 287-8310.

Where there is a will, there is a way! Let's do it! Let's get off our buts (excuses) and do it!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°

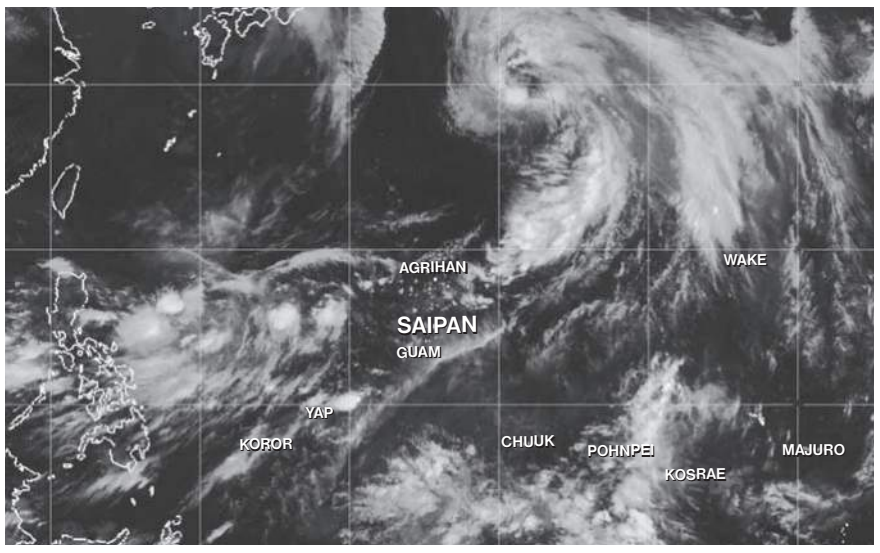
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲83	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼73
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼48
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼65
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Windy	▲65	▼59
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲82	▼63
Manila	Thundershowers	▲85	▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼72
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲69	▼53
Pusan	Sunny	▲81	▼71
Rome	Showers	▲85	▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲95	▼56
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲81	▼65
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲83	▼74
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲91	▼75

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough curves northeastward from 18N130E through a circulation centered north of Koror at 17N134E then to the far northern CNMI at 20N145E and finally to beyond 25N at 151E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation are found north of Koror and Yap between 10N and 17N from 130E to 140E. Convergent southwest winds south of the circulation are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror and Yap within 60 miles of a line from 6N132E to 9N138E farther northeast. Converging southwest winds southeast of the trough axis are causing similar weather over Minami Tori Shima within 100 miles of a line from 18N149E to 24N156E. South winds converging east of the trough axis are yielding scattered showers northwest of Wake Island or north of a line from 24N160E to 21N166E. Converging winds along the equator are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk or south of a line from 4N141E to 7N146E to 4N154E. A surface trough extends northeastward from EQ158E to 12N163E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring just east of Chuuk within 175 miles of the trough axis. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms just west of the date line or within 140 miles of a line from 18N175E to 9N178E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

7:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
3:05 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:52 PM	
Tuesday	1:48 PM	12:24 AM
Wednesday	2:39 PM	1:21 AM
Thursday	3:26 PM	2:17 AM
Friday	4:09 PM	3:11 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 24, 2011

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5	C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)**			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5	C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 4, 7
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)				**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	1, 3, 4, 5, 7	5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				**OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN**			
0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606	2:20am	6:00am	1	0Z603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
0Z119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	0Z605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				**GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN	0Z704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:45am	12:35am+1	Daily via NRT
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT	0Z702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM	C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM	C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am	5, via GUM
				PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**			
0Z606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	0Z724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
0Z606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	0Z750/603	1:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
0Z604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	7 via ICN	0Z722/605	1:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
				C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Fair wages are an American tradition

By STEVEN C. EDELSTEIN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The first Monday of September Americans celebrate the workers who make our country strong. On Labor Day, we are proud of the traditions that brought us the eight-hour work day, paid vacation and sick days, and minimum wage and overtime protections. These basic labor standards helped to make our country the wealthiest in the world by creating a vast middle class able to buy the goods and services that kept our economy growing.

Unfortunately, 129 years after the first Labor Day celebrations, more and more American workers find themselves without some of these basic labor protections. Amazingly, the fastest-growing occupations in the country—personal care and home health aides—are explicitly excluded from the Fair Labor Standards Act minimum wage and overtime protections. As a result, the 1.7 million workers who provide loving care and assistance to our frail and disabled family members are among the most poorly paid workers in our nation.

In 1974, the Fair Labor Standards Act was updated to include most domestic workers, such as cooks, maids, and yard workers. However, companions for the elderly were exempted. At the time, long-term services and supports for elders and people with disabilities were primarily provided in skilled nursing facilities. Home care workers were considered the equivalent to babysitters, providing company to elders who were lonely or needed "someone in the house" to assure safety while family members were out working.

Today, the home care industry is one of the fastest-growing sectors of our economy. Federal and state policies explicitly promote care at home over facility-based care—and by 2018, home and community-based aides are expected to outnumber facility-based aides by 2 to 1. Home care aides provide the same *skilled services* to their clients as certified nursing assistants provide to nursing home residents. These services include not only personal care such as bathing, dressing, and toileting, but assistance with mobility, oral and injected medications, nutrition, and monitoring of vital signs such as blood pressure. Clearly, these are not "companionship" services.

The Department of Labor recently held two listening sessions to solicit input on revising the companionship exemption, to ensure that workers who provide skilled home care services receive the fair wages they deserve. Industry advocates argued that narrowing the exemption would make care unaffordable for seniors and people with disabilities and would undermine quality. This argument does not honor our tradition of providing workers with fair wages—wages that allow them to support their families and live with dignity. Moreover, it is not supported by the evidence.

First, 22 states already provide minimum wage and /or overtime protections to home care aides. These states have thriving home care sectors that have been growing apace with the expansion of demand from a rapidly growing elder population.

Second, the biggest challenge facing the industry is attracting and retaining workers. Providing basic labor protections would show that as a society we value the essential services that home care workers provide—and we respect their right to fair wages. Better wages, along with better training and supports, would attract more workers to the field and decrease turnover, thereby reducing industry costs and increasing the quality of care provided to clients.

Finally, leading the lobbying effort to maintain the companionship exemption are for-profit home care franchises experiencing astounding growth, even during these difficult economic times. While it costs on average $19/hour to hire an aide through these agencies, starting pay for aides is less than $9 per hour. Obviously agencies have other business expenses besides worker wages, but profit margins for many are high. This suggests that the additional costs of paying a fair wage would not necessarily need to be passed on to customers.

America's families are the consumers of home care services. We want our loved ones to have compassionate, quality care provided by someone we trust and respect. Often these caregivers become like "family members." But they have families of their own to support. We cannot ask the caregivers—usually poor, often immigrant women—to sacrifice their meager wages to make the system of care affordable. Rather we must find solutions that work for everyone. We must begin with the assumption that our nation's labor laws apply to all workers, including those who provide the intimate caregiving services that allow our loved ones to live independently and with dignity at the end of their lives.

Steven C. Edelstein is the National Policy Director at PHI, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the quality of jobs for direct-care workers and the quality of care for elders and people with disabilities.

Letters to the Editor

Now's the time for casino on Saipan

There are a lot of reasons why it is finally time to have restricted, regulated, and taxed casino gaming on Saipan. One is we need the money it will bring. Another is it will create some jobs and maybe bring back some of our kids who have left the island to find work. Another is that it is a business that can be up and running very quickly instead of taking years to get going. The hotels are already here, they don't have to be built. The airport is more than capable and is already bringing in hundreds of thousands of tourists; it doesn't have to be built or improved. We are ready to get started right away.

Most of the people who talk to me about this are in support of the idea of allowing a few big hotels to offer casino gaming if they want to. A few people don't want it for whatever reason but never seem to come up with a realistic alternative. Farming is a wonderful idea but it will take many years and most of our island's scarce land to create an export farming industry that really adds any noticeable money to our CNMI economy. Compare that to a few months for casino gaming to begin adding money to our ailing economy.

It will certainly improve our tourism and give the visitors something else to do. It will make enough in tax money so we can clean up our other tourist sites and build some new ones. It will improve the amount of money most tourists leave on the island. This is our only source of outside income. So why doesn't MVA have a position on this important issue? Please speak out NOW.

Casinos on Saipan will not hurt gaming on Tinian or Rota. For the benefit of all the people of the CNMI, let's do the right thing and help get this new industry started instead of dragging our feet.

Citizens, we can do it if we stand up to the handful of naysayers and worry warts. We need to clear the path and make it possible for this new cash maker to operate right here on Saipan. Those who want to play casino games will be able to do so. Those who don't sure don't have to. Everybody wins…even the losers have fun.

Rep. Stanley T. McGinnis Torres
17th CNMI Legislature
Capital Hill, Saipan

Rolling down the tracks

Why do I not find it ironic that House members are claiming senators asked them to introduce a new casino bill? Do they need to be asked? Don't they feel confident as to what we elected them to do?

Some leaders bemoan the cost of having the people vote—again. I personally support spending our money, be it $7,000 or $65,000, to ask the people. Our leaders, judging by their performance, or lack thereof, seem to be out of touch. While I am glad they have gotten rid of the panties, some lawmakers seem to think we want to just meekly keep rolling toward an economic train wreck. Choo-choo.

If they are so confident that they are right, then spending 60 Gs of our money would be a small investment to save our islands. C'mon, some of our leaders receive almost $60,000 a year extra of our money to spend without accountability. If you believe casinos will be our salvation, our damnation, or just business-as-usual, then you should take a stand, educate us transparently, debate it, cough up our dough and put it to the people. Please don't give us any "we know what's good for you" condescending platitudes. Your track record betrays you.

My advice to our fearless leaders on the mountain is this: Man-up (ladies too) and put our money where your mouth is. Time's wasting, the panties are still hanging, and we're rolling down the tracks. Choo-choo!

Richard Gramlich
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

FAMILY

I take this time to thank sincerely one of our longest serving priests here in the CNMI. Fr. Ike Ayuyu is human, but also a spiritual man who has 25 years under his belt of sharing with our community our pains, our faults and our *fiestas*. Father Ike has been a staple in my family and a good shepherd, keeping me in line and reminding me of the greatness that lies in each one of us, which God put there through His grace.

I would like to share with you one of Father Ike's countless homilies to help commemorate this joyous occasion of his Sacerdotal Jubilee. It happened one evening while my wife and our uncle tried to catch the "Last Chance Mass" at 6pm at the Cathedral. We came and sure enough, it was Father Ike who served. He explained in no uncertain terms that family is a sacred bond. That when you call somebody family, it means you care for them regardless of shortcomings. He explained that the word FAMILY actually stands for something. Before this, I was of the opinion that family are those whom you share a bloodline with. So he began with the letter "F" and stated that it stands for "Forget." Hmmm, where is he going with this, I thought. Then he said "About," then "Me," "Because"..."I LOVE YOU"... It hit me like a coconut falling off a tree. At first, I was baffled, but instantly like a light shining through my darkness, I *understood*! Those people whom you would die for are your family. That made me realize the full potential of the word, and I have changed for the better ever since that fateful evening. My family has enriched our lives with this understanding of "Family."

So celebrate with vigor as at least you have one or two of your sheep who have learned a great deal from just one of your homilies. I thank you for your spiritual guidance and your continued support of the people of God here in our wonderful CNMI.

Thomas M. Thornburgh
Gualo Rai, Saipan

PRINIPONEN

From Page 11

na umañg dañkulu. In' tinu ya in'fa' totchen taloane. Paire na boka hombre hana' fan losus ham todu gi halom tinanom sunen bisaya. Adahe na losus, hombre tautau mona' sinigun ni estotbun lanan abune.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone no. (670)236-0903 • Facsimile no. (670) 236-0990

CITIZEN JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Almost every job now held by an alien in the Commonwealth will soon be available for interested and qualified U.S. citizens. Jobs currently held by foreign workers will require a new federal permit. The new federal transitional worker program will require employers to hire available qualified U.S. citizens or green card holders before hiring or re-hiring aliens as transitional workers.

Employers will need to get new federal permits by November 28, 2011. A federal permit to employ an alien can be obtained only if an employer makes reasonable efforts to find qualified U.S. citizens for these jobs and no qualified citizens are available. FAS citizens may also take advantage of this requirement. CNMI law requires employers of aliens to post available jobs on the Labor Department website.

All jobs now held by aliens are listed in the Job Availability Survey posted on the Labor Department website, www.marianaslabor.net.

If you have problems, the CNMI Department of Labor will help. If you know of a job held by an alien for which you believe you are qualified, you can apply directly to the employer. The Department also recommends that you provide Labor with a copy of your resume and work interests to be placed in the Department searchable database. The Department can also assist you in developing a resume and improving your job interview techniques.

Employers are required to consider qualified citizens fairly. If you are refused consideration, believe that you have been rejected unfairly, or find that a job has not been posted on the website, you can file a complaint with the Department of Labor, and our investigators will examine the employer's records and summon them for a hearing if necessary.

Power outage, water shortage thwart *man'amko* election

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The election for the next Saipan Senior Advisory Council members last Friday was postponed to Tuesday this week due to a power outage and water shortage at the Aging Center.

"Because of these problems, we had to postpone the election and move it to Tuesday after Labor Day," said Aging director Rose Mondala.

Mondala said the center did not have electricity when they got in so they checked the electrical panel. "The electrical panel got stuck. We had to wait for [Department of Public Works] to come," she said.

Mondala said that power was restored around 10:30am.

Aging Office program coordinator Walter Manglona said that without power, the center did not have water as well, so they had to send home the congregates.

"The *man'amko* felt bad because they were so pumped up for that election," he said.

According to Manglona, the *man'amko* went about the voting process in preparation for Friday's elections.

Manglona said the 13 candidates campaigned for votes to the rest of the congregates on Wednesday. However, only the top 8 will be given a position in the council.

The 13 candidates are Alejandra Blas, Manuel Mesa, Christiana Michael, Elena Villanueva, Jacoba Asuncion, Jesus Pangelinan, Maria Salinas, Bernard Sebangiol, Meryalen Conrad, Sitae Terry, Rita Reyes, Siyau Muna, and Teresita Sorroza.

"Each candidate was given three minutes to talk about their plans once elected to the council," said Manglona.

Manglona said that of the 13 candidates, four have college degrees and three are retired teachers.

According to Mondala, ballots with less or over 8 votes in tomorrow's election will be considered null and void.

While they sent home the congregates, Mondala said they were able to take care of their homebound clients. She added that the center remained open on Friday to deal with walk-in clients.

US govt seeks to collect $148K in back taxes from Rota hotel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has gone to court to collect $148,347.65 in federal tax liabilities that Rota Coconut Village Hotel allegedly owes.

Lauren M. Castaldi, the U.S. Department of Justice's Tax Division lawyer, also asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to award the U.S. government for costs incurred in bringing the court action.

Castaldi stated Thursday that the Rota Coconut Village Hotel was given notice of federal income tax assessments and demand for payment was made as required by the statute. Despite these notice and demand for payment, Castaldi said the hotel "has neglected, refused, or failed to pay such assessments."

As of Sept. 26, 2011, the trial attorney said, there remains due and owing to the U.S. the total of $148,347.65, plus statutory interest, and other statutory additions as provided by law.

Castaldi said that on July 17, 2001, the Internal Revenue Service sent a notice to the hotel that a Notice of Federal Tax Lien had been filed against it for its Form 941 tax liabilities for the last quarter of 1997, all four quarters of 1998, the first, second, and third quarters of 1999, and all four quarters of 2000; and for the statutory penalty for 1997.

Castaldi said that, on May 13, 2002, after a hearing was held, IRS Appeals issued a notice of determination concerning collection action and or sustaining the filing of the Notice of Federal Tax Lien.

"Rota Coconut Village Hotel did not file a Tax Court petition appealing the notice of determination," the lawyer said.

Castaldi said that, on April 26, 2011, the hotel submitted a Form 656-L, Offer in Compromise (Doubt as to liability) to the IRS for the penalties for the 1997, 1999, and 2000 tax years.

The government lawyer said the IRS by letter dated May 18, 2011, returned the Form 656-L to the hotel.

BROTHER'S ORIENTAL DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Brother's Oriental Medicine Clinic (under Salty Saipan Corp.) donates several canes and walkers this past week to the Department of Public Health. The canes and walkers will be used by the Physical Therapy Unit at the Commonwealth Health Center. In the photo, from left to right, are deputy secretary for Hospital Administration Esther Muña, Kyoungmin Song, Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Dr. Jungsang Park, and Anne Song from the Brother's Clinic.

Magnitude-7.0 quake shakes Vanuatu

NEW YORK (AP)—A magnitude-7.0 earthquake shook the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu on Sunday morning, the U.S. Geological Survey reported.

There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. No tsunami alert was issued.

The 9:55 a.m. Sunday (2256 GMT Saturday) quake was deep, some 132 kilometers (82 miles) below the surface, the USGS said.

The USGS said the quake hit some 348 kilometers (216 miles) southeast of Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu, and some 1,860 kilometers (1,155 miles) northeast of Brisbane, Australia.

Foremost donates 800 cases of milk to nonprofit organizations

Foremost, a leading food and beverage company in Micronesia, donated 800 cases of Reduced Fat Milk Quart, its best-selling milk product, to three nonprofit organizations on Saipan.

The Aging Center and the Commonwealth Health Center each received 200 cases of Reduced Fat Milk Quart while the Salvation Army got 400 cases.

Rose Mondala, director, Senior Community Service Employment Program said, "We're very grateful when Foremost comes to the Aging Center. The *man'amko* are very happy that Foremost is thinking of us. With the economy being what it is today, we want to thank Foremost for its generosity."

When Foremost delivered the 2,400 quarts of milk to the hospital cafeteria, Juanita R. Deleon Guerrero, food service supervisor at the Commonwealth Health Center, expressed her appreciation for the gift. "Thanks very much for the Foremost donation of milk. This will help our kitchen staff with food preparation."

The Salvation Army, which operates Guma Yo'Ase, a soup kitchen that serves anywhere from 30 to 52 clients from 11am to 1pm each Saturday, received 4,800 quarts of Foremost Reduced Fat Milk.

Wayne Gillespie, the ministry leader of Salvation Army on Saipan said, "We are grateful for this generous donation of milk, which will provide much needed nutrition to many families and individuals on our island. Foremost has been a great supporter of our feeding programs with regular donations of milk, which is of great benefit to the people we serve. We can't thank them enough."

Glen D. Hunter, group business manager of Foremost Foods Saipan, shared that Foremost responds to the nutritional needs of the community by offering healthful food and beverage on the market.

"True to our slogan, 'Part of your life,' Foremost is committed to promoting good nutrition and a fit and healthy lifestyle through our products," said Hunter. "We are encouraged by the positive response of the community to one of our healthier products, Foremost Reduced Fat Milk. Supporting nonprofit organizations through product donations is one of several ways that we give back to our community." (***PR***)

FOREMOST

Gerry Hemley, production supervisor, Foremost Foods, Saipan, presents 200 cases of Foremost Reduced Fat Milk in quarts for the Aging Center to Rose Mondala, director, Senior Community Service Employment Program.

FOREMOST

Juanita R. Delecon Guerrero, food service supervisor, Commonwealth Health Center receives 200 cases of Foremost Reduced Fat Milk in quarts from Gerry Hemley, production supervisor, Foremost Foods Saipan.

FOREMOST

Wayne Gillespie, left, ministry leader, Salvation Army Saipan, receives 400 cases of Foremost Reduced Fat Milk from Foremost Foremost Foods Saipan. The 4,800 quarts of milk were delivered by Foremost staff, from second left, William Villagomez, merchandiser; Gerry Hemley, sales supervisor; and Aliceo Sakisat, warehouse supervisor.

Business

Hiring standstill points to a mounting recession risk

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employers added no jobs in August—an alarming setback for the economy that renewed fears of another recession and raised pressure on Washington to end the hiring standstill.

Worries flared Friday after the release of the worst jobs report since September 2010. Total payrolls were unchanged, the first time since 1945 that the government reported a net job change of zero. The unemployment rate stayed at 9.1 percent.

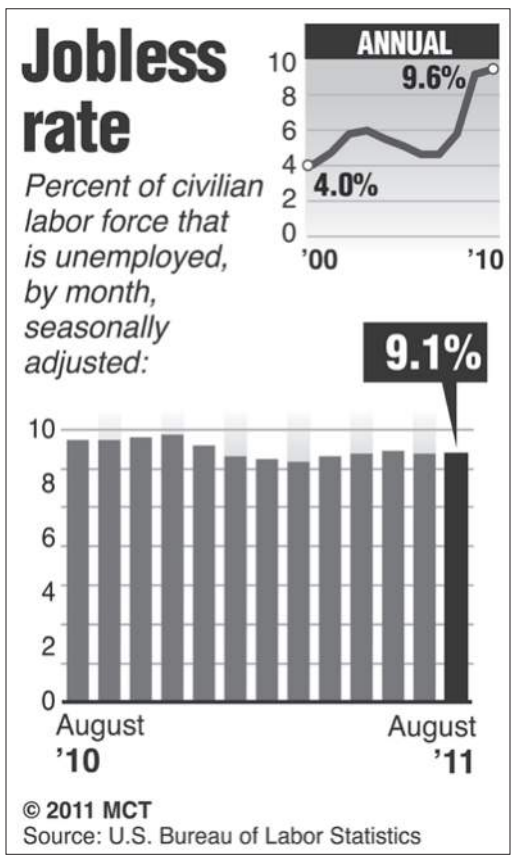
The dismal news two day before Labor Day sent stocks plunging. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 253 points, or more than 2 percent.

Analysts say the economy cannot continue to expand unless hiring picks up. In the first six months of 2011, growth was measured at an annual rate of 0.7 percent.

Companies are mostly keeping their payrolls intact. They're not laying off many workers. But they're not hiring, either. Without more jobs to fuel consumer spending, economists say another recession would be inevitable. Consumer spending accounts for about 70 percent of economic growth.

Like a wobbling bicycle, "you either reaccelerate or you fall over, said James O'Sullivan, chief economist at MF Global. "Something has to give."

When growth is slow and unemployment high, companies feel little pressure to increase pay and benefits. In August, for instance, hourly wages fell.



Q&A about August jobs report

WASHINGTON (AP)—Employers added no net jobs last month, and the unemployment rate stayed at 9.1 percent. The bleakest jobs report since September 2010 resurrected fears that the economy could fall back into another recession.

More jobs and higher income are needed to get people to spend more. Instead, hiring has been sputtering, even before August. Employers added 166,000 jobs a month in the January-March quarter, 97,000 a month in the April-June quarter and just 43,000 a month so far in the July-September period.

Here are some questions and answers about Friday's jobs report:

Q. What happened to employment in August?

A. It was a dismal month. During August, lawmakers fought over raising the debt ceiling. Standard & Poor's downgraded long-term U.S debt. Stocks sank nearly 16 percent in three weeks. And the government had just reported that the economy barely grew in the first half of the year. "If you were a business person and you were watching what happened in August, you were not going to hire," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors.

Q. Are we in a recession?

A. It feels that way to many people. That's especially true for 14 million unemployed and 11 million others who either aren't looking for work until the job market brightens or who work part time but want a full-time job. But for economists, a recession happens only with a sustained drop in growth, employment and income. That hasn't happened yet. The economy grew in the first six months of this year, though at a scant 0.7 percent annual rate. And employers have added about 900,000 jobs this year—even though that's a small fraction of the more than 7 million lost in the recession that officially ended more than two years ago.

Q. So if this isn't a recession, then what is it?

A. Some call it a "growth recession": The economy is growing but isn't adding enough jobs to lower unemployment. Consider the 2001 downturn. For the first 18 months after it ended, the economy shed jobs even though it grew at an annual rate of 2.1 percent. Moody's Analytics expects monthly job gains to remain below 100,000 through the middle of 2012—barely enough to keep up with population growth. Without more jobs, consumers won't spend more. Companies could delay hiring. Incomes would languish further. Such a vicious cycle raises the likelihood of another recession. "It can just become self-perpetuating," said Moody's economist Sophia Koropeckyj.

Q. When was the last time the economy was this bad two years after a major recession ended?

A. Not since the Great Depression. There have been very slow recoveries, including after the two previous recessions, in 2001 and 1990-91. Both were deemed "jobless recoveries," because the unemployment rate climbed for months after they ended. But not since the Depression has unemployment been this high this long into a recovery. The rate has topped 9 percent for all but two months since May 2009. There are still 6.9 million fewer jobs than before the recession began.

Q. What will it take for the economy to regain its health?

A. Many economists expect growth to pick up modestly in coming months, though Friday's jobs report may cause some to downgrade their forecasts. Gas prices have eased after spiking this spring. Auto makers are boosting production. They're seeing higher sales now that supply disruptions stemming from Japan's earthquake have eased. But the economy desperately needs more jobs.

Q. What can President Barack Obama or the Federal Reserve do to boost growth?

A. Not much, according to some economists, especially given the gridlock in Washington. Obama will ask Congress next week to tap federal resources to boost employment and economic growth. Yet that plan is "likely to be dead on arrival," said Neil Dutta, an economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Republicans will probably oppose any new spending. Chairman Ben Bernanke might decide to shift more of the Fed's short-term bond holdings to longer-term securities. That could help hold down long-term interest rates. But 30-year mortgage rates are already near record lows, and this year is on pace to be the worst for home sales in 14 years.

Nation

Feds warn of small airplane terror threats

AP

In this Monday, Sept. 17, 2001 file picture, Robert Williams of Mihand Aircraft near England, Ark., places the engine cover back on his agricultural airplane after removing the battery cable.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI and Homeland Security have issued a nationwide warning about al-Qaida threats to small airplanes, just days before the anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attacks.

Authorities say there is no specific or credible terrorist threat for the 10-year anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. But they have stepped up security nationwide as a precaution.

According to a five-page law enforcement bulletin issued Friday, as recently as early this year, al-Qaida was considering ways to attack airplanes.

The alert, issued ahead of the summer's last busy travel weekend, said terrorists have considered renting private planes and loading them with explosives.

"Al-Qaida and its affiliates have maintained an interest in obtaining aviation training, particularly on small aircraft, and in recruiting Western individuals for training in Europe or the United States, although we do not have current, credible information or intelligence of an imminent attack being planned," according to the bulletin obtained by The Associated Press.

The bulletin also says al-Qaida would like to use sympathetic Westerners to get flight training, then get them to become flight instructors.

Matthew Chandler, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, described the bulletin as routine.

"We shared this information with our partners to highlight the need for continued awareness and vigilance," he said.

Aviation security is much tighter than it was a decade ago, but al-Qaida remains keenly interested in launching attacks on airplanes, believing large attacks with high body counts are more likely to grab headlines.

Threats to small airplanes are nothing new. After the 2001 attacks, the government grounded thousands of crop dusters amid fears the planes could be used in an attack.

In 2002, U.S. officials said they uncovered an al-Qaida plot to fly a small plane into a U.S. warship in the Persian Gulf. And in 2003, U.S. officials uncovered an al-Qaida plot to crash an explosives-laden small aircraft into the American consulate in Karachi, Pakistan.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man gets life in prison for nursing home slayings

CARTHAGE, N.C. (AP)—Robert Stewart showed the same lack of emotion when a jury found him guilty of murder Saturday as witnesses say he displayed when he gunned down eight people at a North Carolina nursing home during one of the worst massacres in state history. Stewart, 47, will not face the death penalty because jurors found him guilty of second-degree murder, meaning they believe he lacked the premeditation and deliberation necessary for a first-degree conviction. Instead, Moore County Superior Court Judge James Webb sentenced the disabled painter and National Guard veteran to between roughly 141 and 177 years in prison.

Strauss-Kahn returns home to France

PARIS (AP)— Dominique Strauss-Kahn has returned home to France for the first time since a New York hotel maid accused him of attempted rape, unleashing a scandal that dashed his chances for the French presidency. New York prosecutors later dropped their case against Strauss-Kahn, who had been chief of the International Monetary Fund, because of questions about the maid's credibility. Strauss-Kahn had been the pollsters' favorite to win next year's presidential elections in France before his May arrest. Few expect him to return to French politics soon, but his return to French soil has been widely awaited.

Tropical Storm Lee drifts just off Louisiana

JEAN LAFITTE, La. (AP)—Bands of heavy rain and strong wind gusts from Tropical Storm Lee knocked out power to thousands in Louisiana and Mississippi on Saturday and prompted evacuations in bayou towns like Jean Lafitte, where water was lapping at the front doors of some homes. The sluggish storm stalled just offshore for several hours before meandering to the north and west in the evening. Its center was expected to move onshore overnightThe storm threatened to dump more than a foot of rain across the Gulf Coast and into the Southeast in coming days. No injuries were reported, but there were scattered instances of water entering low-lying homes and businesses in Louisiana. To the east, coffers were suffering at many coastal businesses that depend on a strong Labor Day weekend. Alabama beaches that would normally be packed were largely empty, and rough seas closed the Port of Mobile. Mississippi's coastal casinos, however, were open and reporting brisk business.

Asia

Arrest of PH rebels stalls talks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Negotiators from the Philippine government and communist rebels said Saturday that the detention of more than a dozen guerrillas is stalling peace negotiations and they hope Norway will help forge a compromise.

Norway is facilitating talks on ending the 42-year insurgency, one of Asia's oldest.

Chief rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni said the detained guerrillas are consultants to the peace talks and have been in custody for up to seven years despite being covered by a 1995 agreement that granted them temporary immunity from arrest.

Alex Padilla, the head government negotiator, said the rebels have not produced proof that the detainees are covered by the agreement.

Norwegian special envoy Ture Lundh is to fly to Manila next week to try to end the stalemate and move the talks forward.

Jalandoni, who represents the Marxist umbrella group the National Democratic Front, told The Associated Press that Lundh will "try to find some middle ground, some solution."

"Norway has taken the initiative for us to meet," Padilla said. "We are hoping for the best. From there, let us see where it goes."

Padilla said the government will release the detainees as a goodwill measure if the rebels can show they are on the list of more than 80 people involved in the talks as consultants or staff who are covered by security and immunity guarantees under the 16-year-old agreement.

However, the rebels failed in July to decrypt photographs of rebels on the list who used aliases and so the government has no basis to release them, Padilla said.

The pictures were stored on a diskette encrypted in 1996 which may have been damaged by mold, Jalandoni said.

Padilla said the government is willing to work to recreate the list as suggested by the rebels, but that it should not delay discussions of substantive issues—social, economic and political reforms—that address the root causes of the armed conflict.

He said the rebels had postponed talks on economic and social reforms that had been scheduled in June and August.

Jalandoni told a news conference on Saturday that the release of all the detained guerrillas is not merely a goodwill gesture but a "commitment and an obligation" agreed upon by the two sides when talks resumed in February after being suspended in 2004.

Typhoon dumps heavy rain on Japan; 6 dead

TOKYO (AP)—Powerful Typhoon Talas left a trail of heavy rainfall and mudslides as it moved northward past Japan on Sunday. At least six people have died and 20 others are missing, local media said.

Evacuation orders and advisories have been issued to 460,000 people in western and central Japan, Kyodo News agency reported. NHK TV footage showed a bridge that had been swept away after intense rainfall, which caused a river to swell with brown torrents. People holding umbrellas waded through knee-deep water in city streets and residential areas.

The center of the season's 12th typhoon was moving north across the Sea of Japan at a speed slower than 12 miles per hour (20 kph), the Japan Meteorological Agency said. It crossed the southern Japanese island of Shikoku and the central part of the main island of Honshu overnight Sunday.

Because of the storm's slow speed, the agency warned that heavy rains and strong winds are likely to continue and could lead to flooding and landslides.

Three homes were buried in a landslide in Wakayama prefecture, and five people were still missing, although a 14-year old girl was rescued from the debris, according to NHK.

Seven people were reported missing in nearby Nara Prefecture, after homes were swept down a river, NHK said.

Among the dead were a woman who appeared to be in her 30s whose body was found in a river in Ehime prefecture on Shikoku, police said. A 73-year-old man in Nara prefecture died after a landslide caused his house to collapse, police said.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani Taliban claim holding 30 abducted boys

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani Taliban said Saturday they are holding around 30 Pakistani boys who were abducted three days ago after being lured across the border into Afghanistan. The group's spokesman Ahsanullah Ahsan said the boys were kidnapped because they belong to a tribe opposed to the militants. He said the Taliban will decide the boys' fate and set conditions for a possible release. Pakistani officials have said the boys, who are between 12 and 15 years old, were seized on Thursday in Afghanistan's Kunar province after crossing over from their villages in the Bajur border region. They were allegedly lured by a man who invited them to play in a river.

US flood aid shipment arrives in North Korea

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—The United States has provided a small yet symbolic shipment of emergency relief items to flood-hit North Korea, in the latest sign of thawing ties between the wartime foes. Heavy rain and tropical storms have pounded North Korea in the past few months, leaving dozens of people dead or missing and displacing thousands of others. Washington has not responded with food aid, but pledged to provide emergency help for the flooding. A cargo plane loaded with $900,000 worth of food, medical aid, soap, blankets and cooking kits from the United States touched down at Pyongyang's Sunan airport late Saturday, according to footage from the Associated Press Television News from the North Korean capital.

Wayward penguin released south of New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—First he needed a little push, then he sped backward down a makeshift slide, and finally he popped his head up for one last look. And then he was gone. The wayward emperor penguin dubbed "Happy Feet" was released into the ocean south of New Zealand on Sunday, more than two months after he came ashore on a beach far from home and won the hearts of people across the world. Speaking from a satellite phone aboard the research vessel Tangaroa, Wellington Zoo veterinarian Lisa Argilla said Happy Feet's release went remarkably smoothly given that the boat was being tossed about in 25-foot (8-meter) swells in the unforgiving sub-Antarctic ocean.

10 dead, 2 missing in China coal mine flood

BEIJING (AP)—10 miners have died and two more are missing after a coal mine in southwestern China flooded. The official Xinhua News Agency said Saturday that rescuers have recovered the bodies of the miners from the Zengjiagou mine outside Dazhou in Sichuan province. Xinhua gave no word on the status of the two missing miners. Xinhua said the flood occurred last Monday, but gave no explanation of why the news was delayed.

World

Documents show ties between Libyan spy head and the CIA

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—The CIA and other Western intelligence agencies worked closely with the ousted regime of Moammar Gadhafi, sharing tips and cooperating in handing over terror suspects for interrogation to a regime known to use torture, according to a trove of security documents discovered after the fall of Tripoli.

The revelations provide new details on the West's efforts to turn Libya's mercurial leader from foe to ally and provide an embarrassing example of the U.S. administration's collaboration with authoritarian regimes in the war on terror.

■■■

TARHOUNA, Libya (AP)—Libyan rebels laying siege to one of Moammar Gadhafi's remaining strongholds say surrender talks have broken down and that they're ready to attack.

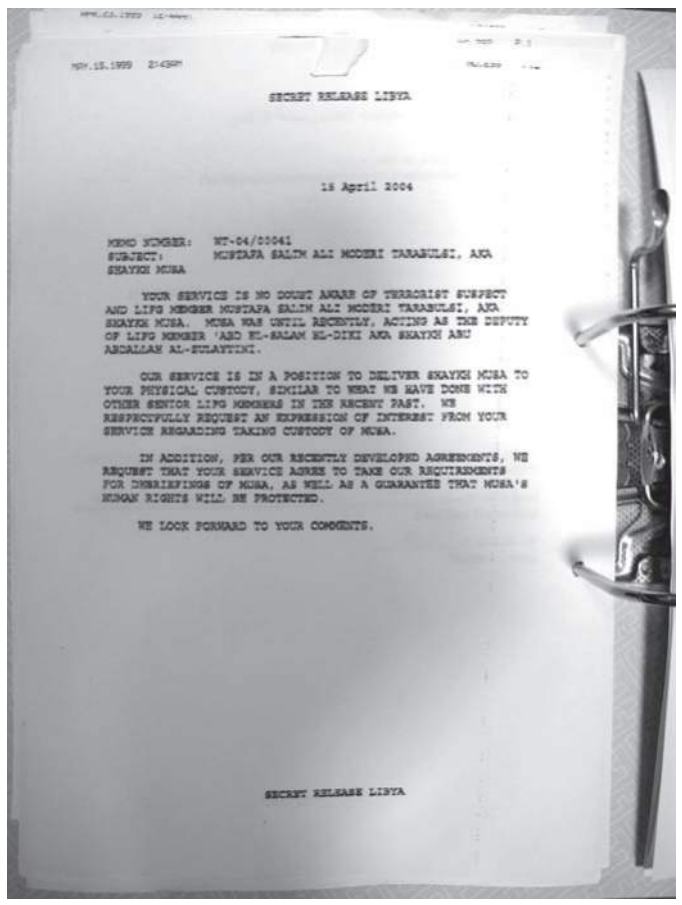
Rebels control most of Libya and Gadhafi and his staunchest allies have been on the run since the fall of the capital of Tripoli late last month. Loyalists have entrenched themselves in several towns, including besieged Bani Walid.

Thousands of rebel fighters are surrounding Bani Walid, with the closest forces about 10 miles (15 kilometers) from the town center. Rebels say they tried to negotiate a peaceful surrender, but accused Bani Walid tribal leaders of stalling.

A rebel commander, Mohammed al-Fassi, said Sunday that "the negotiations are over." Rebels have said they will launch their assault later Sunday.

■■■

The documents, among tens of thousands found in an External Security building in Tripoli, show an increasingly warm relationship, with CIA agents proposing to set up a permanent Tripoli office, addressing their Libyan counterparts by their first names and giving them advice. In one memo, a British agent even sends Christmas greetings.



SECRET RELEASE LIBYA

15 April 2004

MEMO NUMBER: MT-04/00041
SUBJECT: MUSTAFA SALIM ALI MOHERI TARABULSI, AKA SHAYKH MUSA

YOUR SERVICE IS NO DOUBT AWARE OF TERRORIST SUSPECT AND LIFG MEMBER MUSTAFA SALIM ALI MOHERI TARABULSI, AKA SHAYKH MUSA. MUSA WAS UNTIL RECENTLY, ACTING AS THE DEPUTY OF LIFG MEMBER 'ABD EL-SALAM EL-DIKI AKA SHAYKH ABU ABDALLAH AL-SUFAYTINI.

OUR SERVICE IS IN A POSITION TO DELIVER SHAYKH MUSA TO YOUR PHYSICAL CUSTODY, SIMILAR TO WHAT WE HAVE DONE WITH OTHER SENIOR LIFG MEMBERS IN THE RECENT PAST. WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM YOUR SERVICE REGARDING TAKING CUSTODY OF MUSA.

IN ADDITION, PER OUR RECENTLY DEVELOPED AGREEMENTS, WE REQUEST THAT YOUR SERVICE AGREE TO TAKE OUR REQUIREMENTS FOR DEBRIEFINGS OF MUSA, AS WELL AS A GUARANTEE THAT MUSA'S HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE PROTECTED.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMMENTS.

SECRET RELEASE LIBYA

AP

This image provided by Human Rights Watch on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011, shows a secret document dated April 15, 2004 discovered by Human Rights Watch in Tripoli, Libya, detailing a request for Libya to take custody of a terrorist suspect known as "Shaykh Musa."

The agencies were known to cooperate as the longtime Libyan ruler worked to overcome his pariah status by stopping his quest for weapons of mass destruction and renouncing support for terrorism. But the new details show a more extensive relationship than was previously known, with Western agencies offering lists of questions for specific detainees and apparently the text for a Gadhafi speech.

They also offer a glimpse into the inner workings of the now-defunct CIA program of extraordinary rendition, through which terror suspects were secretly detained, sent to third countries and sometimes underwent the so-called enhanced interrogation tactics like waterboarding.

The documents mention a half dozen names of people targeted for rendition, including Tripoli's new rebel military commander, Abdel-Hakim Belhaj.

Peter Bouckaert of Human Rights Watch, which helped find the documents, called the ties between Washington and Gadhafi's regime "A very dark chapter in American intelligence history."

"It remains a stain on the record of the American intelligence services that they cooperated with these very abusive intelligence services," he said Saturday.

The findings could cloud relations between the West and Libya's new leaders, although Belhaj said he holds no grudge. NATO airstrikes have helped the rebels advance throughout the six-month civil war and continue to target regime forces as rebels hunt for Gadhafi.

Belhaj is the former leader of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, a now-dissolved militant organization that sought to assassinate Gadhafi.

WORLD BRIEFS

Yemen: Car bomb kills 3 policemen in Aden

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A suicide car bomber killed three policemen and injured seven at a checkpoint in the port city of Aden on the Arabian Sea Saturday, a Yemeni security official said. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said gunmen firing their weapons drove through the checkpoint after the bombing on the road linking Aden to Zinjibar. Zinjibar, the provincial capital of Abyan, has fallen under the control of Islamic militants affiliated with al-Qaida.

Chile: All 21 aboard crashed military plane died

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—All 21 people aboard a military plane that crashed in the Pacific Ocean near Chile's remote Juan Fernandez islands are dead, the government said Saturday. The Chilean CASA 212 plane crashed Friday afternoon after two failed attempts to land in difficult weather on the islands. Earlier Saturday, Chilean officials said the bodies of two women and two men were recovered by searchers or fishermen. Searchers said they had also found pieces of the plane's wreckage.

Focus

Disasters in US: An extreme and exhausting year

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Nature is pummeling the United States this year with extremes.

Unprecedented triple-digit (38-plus degree Celsius) heat and devastating drought. Deadly tornadoes leveling towns. Massive rivers overflowing. A billion-dollar blizzard. And now, unusual hurricane-caused flooding in Vermont.

If what's falling from the sky isn't enough, the ground shook in places that normally seem stable: Colorado and the entire East Coast. On Friday, a strong quake triggered brief tsunami warnings in Alaska. Arizona and New Mexico have broken records for wildfires.

Total weather losses top $35 billion, and that's not counting Hurricane Irene, according to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration. There have been more than 700 U.S. disaster and weather deaths, most from the tornado outbreaks this spring.

Last year, the world seemed to go wild with natural disasters in the deadliest year in a generation. But 2010 was bad globally, and the United States mostly was spared.

This year, while there have been devastating events elsewhere, such as the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Australia's flooding and a drought in Africa, it's our turn to get smacked. Repeatedly.

"I'm hoping for a break. I'm tired of working this hard. This is ridiculous," said Jeff Masters, a meteorologist who runs Weather Underground, a meteorology service that tracks strange and extreme weather. "I'm not used to seeing all these extremes all at once in one year."

The U.S. has had a record 10 weather catastrophes costing more than a billion dollars: five separate tornado outbreaks, two different major river floods in the Upper Midwest and the Mississippi River, drought in the Southwest and a blizzard that crippled the Midwest and Northeast, and Irene.

What's happening, say experts, is mostly random chance or bad luck. But there is something more to it, many of them say. Man-made global warming is increasing the odds of getting a bad roll of the dice.

Sometimes the luck seemed downright freakish.

The East Coast got a double-whammy in one week with a magnitude 5.8 earthquake followed by a drenching from Irene. If one place felt more besieged than others, it was tiny Mineral, Virginia, the epicenter of the quake, where Louisa County Fire Lt. Floyd Richard stared at the darkening sky before Irene and said, "What did WE do to Mother Nature to come through here like this."

There are still four months to go, including September, the busiest month of the hurricane season. The Gulf Coast expected a soaking this weekend from Tropical Storm Lee and forecasters were watching Hurricane Katia slogging west in the Atlantic.

The insurance company Munich Re calculated that in the first six months of the year there have been 98 natural disasters in the United States, about double the average of the 1990s.

Even before Irene, the Federal Emergency Management Agency was on pace to obliterate the record for declared disasters issued by state, reflecting both the geographic breadth and frequency of America's problem-plagued year.

"If you weren't in a drought, you were drowning is what it came down to," Masters said.

Add to that, oppressive and unrelenting heat. Tens of thousands of daily weather records have been broken or tied and nearly 1,000 all-time records set, with most of them heat or rain related:

■ Oklahoma set a record for hottest month ever in any state with July.

■ Washington D.C. set all-time heat records at the National Arboretum on July 23 with 105 (40.5 Celsius) and then broke it a week later with 106 (41 Celsius).

■ Houston had a record string of 24 days in August with the thermometer over 100 degrees F (38 degrees C).

■ Newark, New Jersey, set a record with 108 degrees F (42 degrees C), topping the old mark by 3 degrees F (2 degrees C).

Tornadoes this year hit medium-sized cities such as Joplin, Missouri, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The outbreaks affected 21 states, including unusual deadly twisters in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Massachusetts.

"I think this year has really been extraordinary in terms of natural catastrophes," said Andreas Schrast, head of catastrophic perils for Swiss Re, another big insurer.

One of the most noticeable and troubling weather extremes was the record-high nighttime temperatures, said Tom Karl, director of NOAA's National Climatic Data Center. That shows that the country wasn't cooling off at all at night, which both the human body and crops need.

"These events are abnormal," Karl said. "But it's part of an ongoing trend we've seen since 1980."

Individual weather disasters so far can't be directly attributed to global warming, but it is a factor in the magnitude and the string of many of the extremes, Karl and other climate scientists say.

While the hurricanes and tornado outbreaks don't seem to have any clear climate change connection, the heat wave and drought do, said NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt.

This year, there's been a Pacific Ocean climate phenomenon that changes weather patterns worldwide known as La Nina, the flip side to El Nino. La Ninas normally trigger certain extremes such as flooding in Australia and drought in Texas. But global warming has taken those events and amplified them from bad to record levels, said climate scientist Jerry Meehl at the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Judith Curry of Georgia Tech disagreed, saying that while humans are changing the climate, these extremes have happened before, pointing to the 1950s.

"Sometimes it seems as if we have weather amnesia," she said.

Another factor is that people are building bigger homes and living in more vulnerable places such as coastal regions, said Swiss Re's Schrast. Worldwide insured losses from disasters in the first three months this year are more than any entire year on record except for 2005, when Hurricane Katrina struck, Schrast said.

Unlike last year, when many of the disasters were in poor countries such as Haiti and Pakistan, this year's catastrophes have struck richer areas, including Australia, Japan and the United States.

The problem is so big that insurers, emergency managers, public officials and academics from around the world are gathering Wednesday in Washington for a special three-day National Academy of Sciences summit to figure out how to better understand and manage extreme events.

The idea is that these events keep happening, and with global warming they should occur more often, so society has to learn to adapt, said former astronaut Kathryn Sullivan, NOAA's deputy chief.

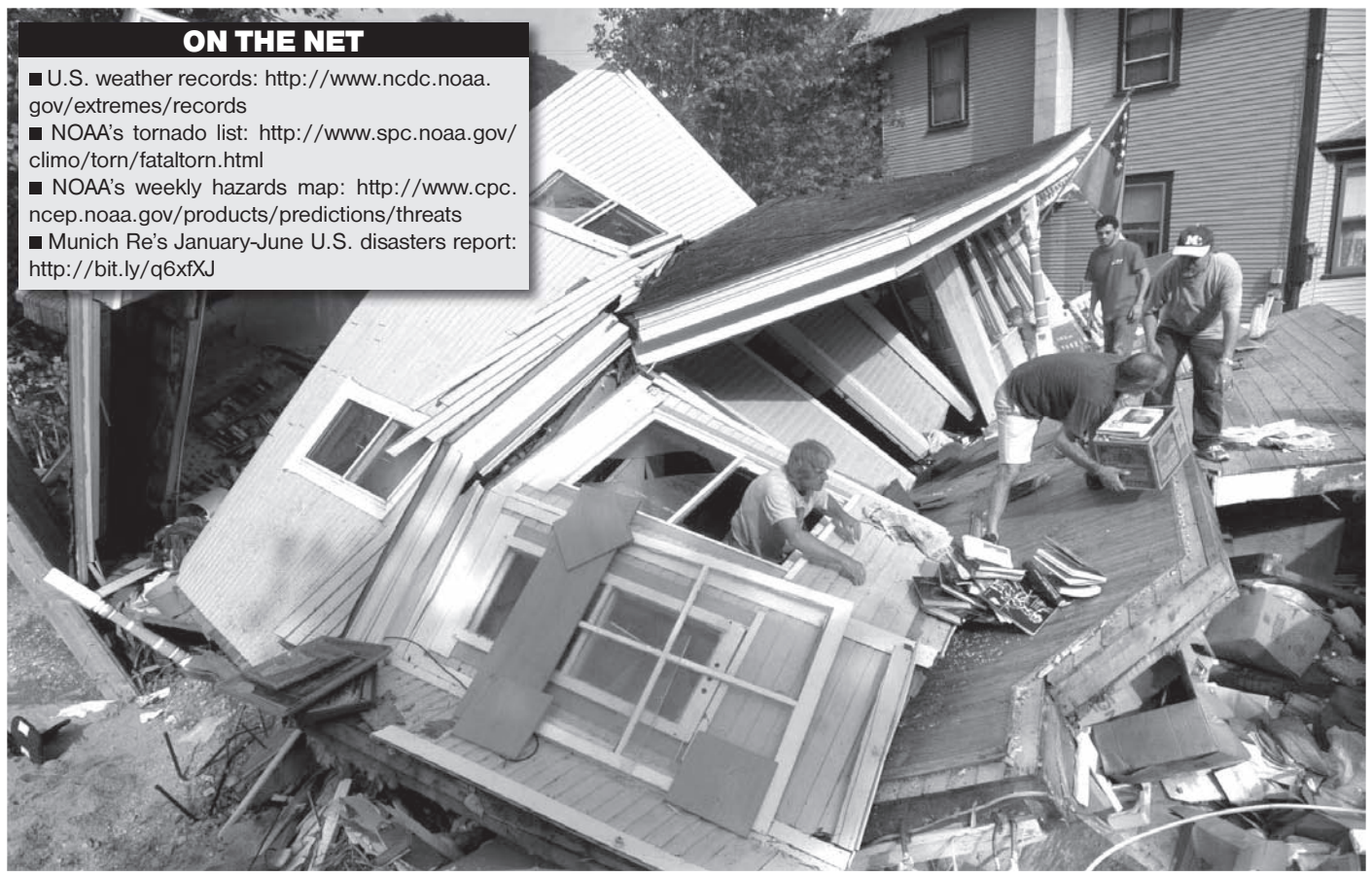
Sullivan, a scientist, said launching into space gave her a unique perspective on Earth's "extraordinary scale and power and both extraordinary elegance and finesse."

"We are part of it. We do affect it," Sullivan said. "But it surely affects us on a daily basis—sometimes with very powerful punches."

Researcher Julie Reed Bell contributed to this report.

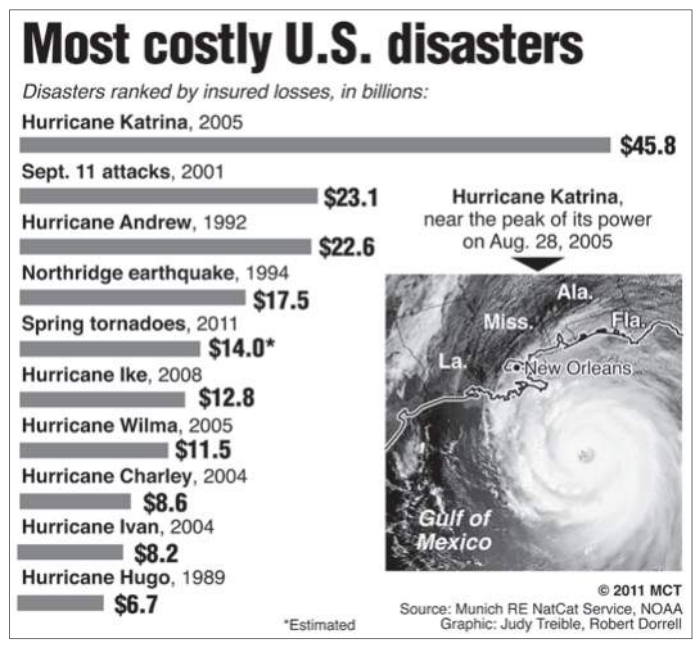
ON THE NET

■ U.S. weather records: http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records
■ NOAA's tornado list: http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/torn/fataltorn.html
■ NOAA's weekly hazards map: http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/threats
■ Munich Re's January-June U.S. disasters report: http://bit.ly/q6xfXJ



AP

In this Aug. 31, 2011 file photo, Brad Leathers, in window, and Ed Wissner remove items from the destroyed home of Jon Graham, right, after it was destroyed during Tropical Storm Irene in Rochester, Vt.



US *weather disasters have cost billions in* 2011

WASHINGTON (AP)—A record 10 weather disasters in the U.S. have each caused at least $1 billion in damage:

■ Hurricane Irene, Aug. 20-29. Damages and deaths are still being tallied, but estimates are running more than $7 billion and close to 50 deaths from Vermont to North Carolina.

■ Upper Midwest flooding, much of the summer. The Missouri and Souris Rivers overflowed in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. Damages: $2 billion.

■ Mississippi River flooding, spring and summer. Damages neared $4 billion as the river flooded from Tennessee south, and spillways were opened to flood rural areas to save cities along the river.

■ Drought and heat wave continues in Texas, Oklahoma and neighboring states. Damage has passed the $5 billion mark.

■ Tornadoes hit the Midwest and Southeast on May 22-27. The toll: 177 dead, more than $7 billion in losses. One tornado killed more than 140 people in Joplin, Missouri, making it the deadliest single twister since records were started in 1950.

■ Tornadoes in the Ohio Valley, Southeast and Midwest on April. 25-30, devastating the city of Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Toll: 32 deaths and more than $9 billion in damages.

■ Tornadoes hit from Oklahoma to Pennsylvania on April 14-16. Toll: $2 billion in damage and 38 deaths, mostly in North Carolina.

■ Outbreak of 59 tornadoes in Midwest and Northeast April 8-11. Damages: $2.2 billion. No deaths.

■ Outbreak of 46 tornadoes in Central and Southern states April 4-5. Toll: Nine deaths and $2.3 billion in damages.

■ Blizzard stretching from late January until after Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, paralyzed cities from Chicago to the Northeast. Toll: 36 deaths and more than $2 billion in damages.

Health & Fitness

Half of Americans drink daily soda, sweet beverage

ATLANTA (AP)—Half of Americans drink a soda or sugary beverage each day—and some are downing a lot.

One in 20 people drinks the equivalent of more than four cans of soda each day, even though health officials say sweetened beverages should be limited to less than half a can.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the figures Wednesday in a report said to be the government's first to offer national statistics for both adults and kids.

Sweetened drinks have been linked to the U.S. explosion in obesity and related medical problems, and health officials have been urging people to cut back for years. Some officials have proposed an extra soda tax and many schools have stopped selling soda or artificial juices.

But advocates say those efforts are not enough, and on Wednesday a coalition of 100 organizations announced a new push. The effort includes the American Heart Association and the some city health departments who plan to prod companies to stop the sale of sugary drinks on their property or providing them at business meetings—as Boston's Carney Hospital did in April. There will also be new media campaigns, like one starting soon in Los Angeles that will ask "If you wouldn't eat 22 packs of sugar, why are you drinking it?'

The new CDC report may be ammunition. It found:

■ About half the population drinks a sugared beverage each day.

■ Males consume more than females, with teenage boys leading the pack. On average, males ages 12 through 19 drink the equivalent of nearly two cans of soda each day.

■ Poor people drink more than the more affluent. Low-income adults got about 9 percent of their daily calories from sugary beverages; for high-income adults it was just over 4 percent.

■ Blacks get more of their calories from sweetened beverages than other racial and ethnic groups.

The study is based on in-person interviews of more than 17,000 people in the years 2005 through 2008. They were asked to recount everything they ate and drank in the previous day. However, diet sodas, sweetened teas, flavored milks and 100 percent fruit juice did not count.

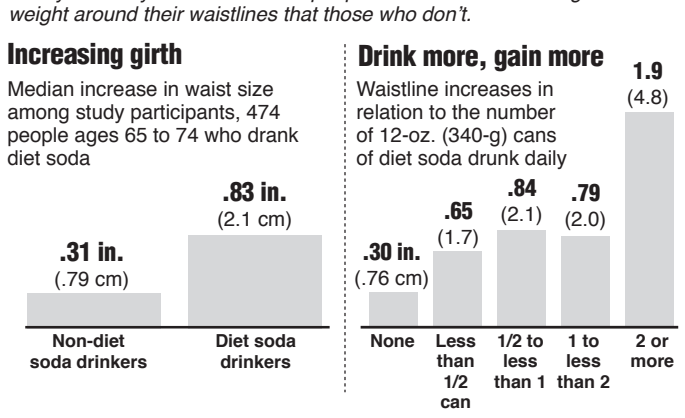
Healthy-eating recommendations call for people to limit sugary beverages to about 64 calories per day. That's a little less than half of a 12-ounce can of regular Coca-Cola, which is 140 calories.

In other terms: An average can of sugared soda or juice has 10 to 12 teaspoons of sugar.

There have been efforts to reduce children's access to sodas and sports drinks in schools, with beverage companies agreeing to remove full-calorie soft drinks. But the CDC study found more than half of the drinks are consumed at home. Less than 1 percent are bought at schools or day-care centers.

That's why some members of the coalition argue that parents shouldn't drink sweetened beverages, so they don't serve as a poor example at home. They hope drinking soda will become as unfashionable as smoking.

A spokesman for Carney Hospital—the 149-bed Boston facility that stopped allowing full-calorie soft drink sales—said the approach makes sense. When the policy was implemented in April, sales of beverages dropped, but have gone back up, as more people apparently are adjusting to water and other non-sweetened drinks.


Not so slimming
A 12-year study shows that older people who drink diet sodas gain more weight around their waistlines that those who don't.
Increasing girth
Median increase in waist size among study participants, 474 people ages 65 to 74 who drank diet soda
.31 in. (.79 cm)
.83 in. (2.1 cm)
Non-diet soda drinkers
Diet soda drinkers
Drink more, gain more
Waistline increases in relation to the number of 12-oz. (340-g) cans of diet soda drunk daily
.30 in. (.76 cm)
.65 (1.7)
.84 (2.1)
.79 (2.0)
1.9 (4.8)
None
Less than 1/2 can
1/2 to less than 1
1 to less than 2
2 or more
Source: University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio
Graphic: San Jose Mercury News
© 2011 MCT

CDC: 2 children sickened by novel swine flu strain

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

A new strain of swine flu has shown up in two children in Pennsylvania and Indiana who had direct or indirect contact with pigs. The virus includes a gene from the 2009 pandemic strain that might let it spread more easily than pig viruses normally do.

So far, there's no sign that the virus has spread beyond the two children, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Friday.

ON THE NET
CDC: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm60e0902.pdf

"We wanted to provide some information without being alarmist," because people have contact with pigs at fairs this time of year and doctors should watch for possible flu cases, said Lyn Finelli, the CDC's flu surveillance chief. "We're always concerned when we see transmission of animal viruses to humans."

People rarely get flu from pigs - only 21 cases have been documented in the last five years - and it's too soon to know how infective this virus will be, she said.

The new strain is a hybrid of viruses that have infected pigs over the last decade and a gene from the H1N1 strain that caused the pandemic two years ago. It is the first combination virus to turn up in people since the pandemic, said Michael Shaw, a lab chief at the CDC. It's classified as an H3N2 virus.

The first case was an Indiana boy under age 5 who was sickened in late July. He had no contact with pigs, but a caretaker did in the weeks before the boy fell ill. He was hospitalized and has recovered, and no other family members appear ill.

The second case was a Pennsylvania girl, also under age 5, who had contact with pigs at an agricultural fair last month. She, too, has recovered, and health officials are investigating reports of illness in other people who went to the fair. No additional cases have been confirmed so far.

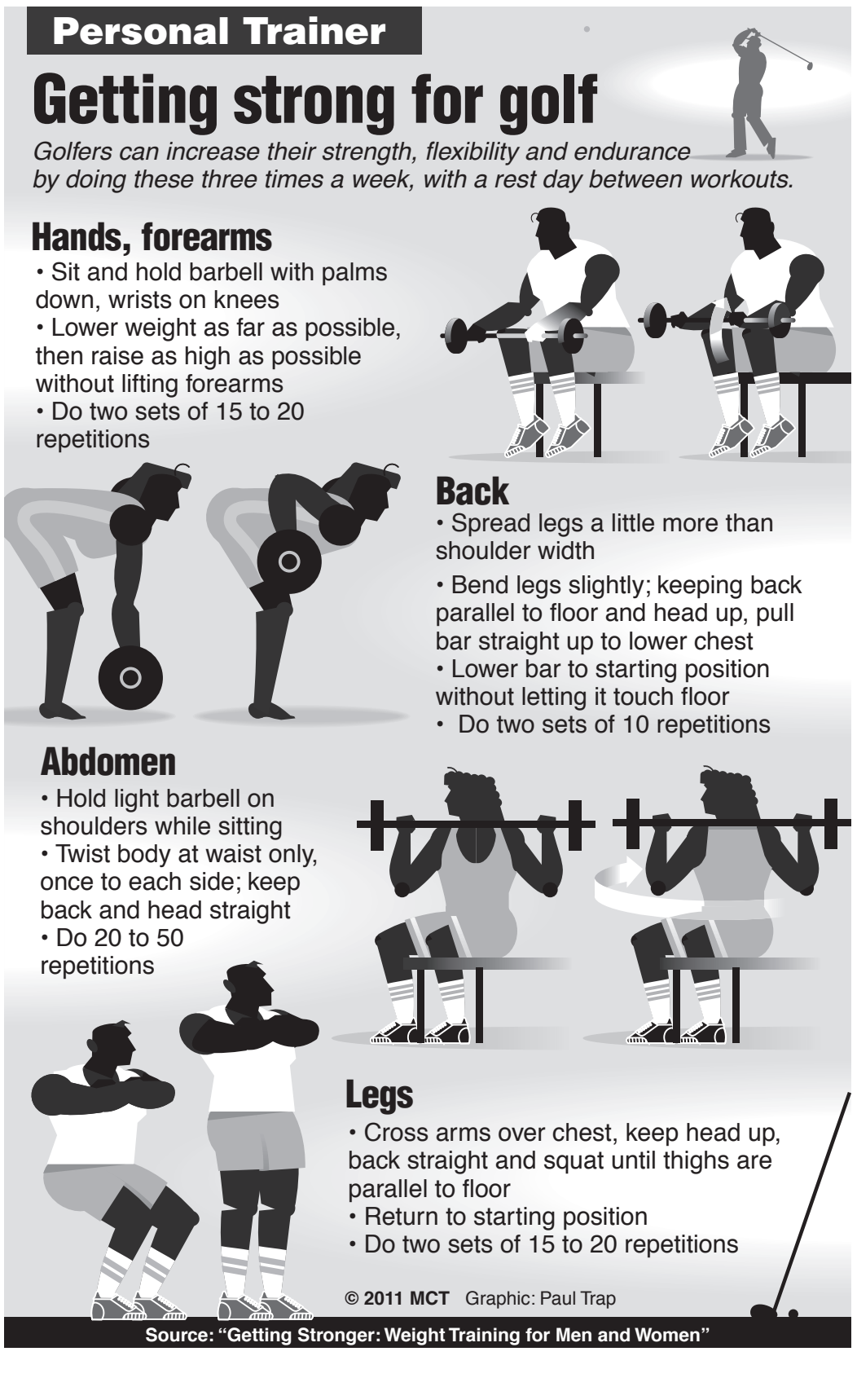
The viruses in the two children were similar but not identical. Both were resistant to older flu medicines but not to Tamiflu or Relenza.

The gene from the 2009 pandemic is one of the things that makes this new strain worrisome, said Dr. John Treanor, a flu specialist at the University of Rochester School of Medicine.

"There is some evidence that that gene is particularly important for transmission from person to person," he said.

This year's vaccine, which is the same as last year's, likely would not protect against the new swine strain, Treanor and Finelli said. They are encouraged that so far it does not appear to have spread easily between people, and that local health officials detected and reported the novel strain so quickly.

"Maybe it will be no big deal but it's important to keep track of this," Treanor said.


Personal Trainer
Getting strong for golf
Golfers can increase their strength, flexibility and endurance by doing these three times a week, with a rest day between workouts.
Hands, forearms
• Sit and hold barbell with palms down, wrists on knees
• Lower weight as far as possible, then raise as high as possible without lifting forearms
• Do two sets of 15 to 20 repetitions
Back
• Spread legs a little more than shoulder width
• Bend legs slightly; keeping back parallel to floor and head up, pull bar straight up to lower chest
• Lower bar to starting position without letting it touch floor
• Do two sets of 10 repetitions
Abdomen
• Hold light barbell on shoulders while sitting
• Twist body at waist only, once to each side; keep back and head straight
• Do 20 to 50 repetitions
Legs
• Cross arms over chest, keep head up, back straight and squat until thighs are parallel to floor
• Return to starting position
• Do two sets of 15 to 20 repetitions
© 2011 MCT Graphic: Paul Trap
Source: "Getting Stronger: Weight Training for Men and Women"

Need a C-section? Protection from blood clot urged

WASHINGTON (AP)—New advice for pregnant women: If you're getting a C-section, special inflating boots strapped on your legs may lower the risk of a blood clot.

Hospitals already use these compression devices for other major operations, such as hip replacements, and a growing number have begun offering them for at least some of their cesarean deliveries, too.

Now guidelines for the nation's obstetricians say it's time to make the step routine for most C-sections, which account for nearly a third of U.S. births.

The new recommendations promise to raise awareness of what is a silent threat not just for pregnant women but for thousands of other people, too: Blood clots in veins that can masquerade as simple leg pain.

Called a DVT, for deep vein thrombosis, this kind of clot usually starts in the leg or groin. But it can kill if it moves up to the lungs, where it's called a pulmonary embolism.

These clots make headlines every few years when seemingly healthy people collapse after long airplane flights or similar prolonged inactivity. Certain surgeries also can trigger a DVT. Earlier this year, tennis star Serena Williams was treated for clots in her lungs discovered after foot surgery and cross-country travel.

Obesity, some types of injuries, even some birth control pills can increase the risk, too.

A woman's risk of a DVT jumps during pregnancy and the six weeks afterward. That's partly because of slower blood flow from the weight gain, and because mom is less active in the last trimester and during those first few weeks of recovery from childbirth.

It's also because pregnancy temporarily changes blood to make it clot more easily.

"This is a consequence of nature's protecting women against the bleeding challenges of childbirth," explains Dr. Andra James of Duke University, who co-authored the new guidelines from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Add a C-section and, like any major surgery, it further increases that risk.

As many as two of every 1,000 pregnant women will experience a DVT, James says. Fortunately, pregnancy-related deaths are very rare in this country, but when they happen, those clots are one of the leading reasons.

Life & Style

Saggy pants cost Green Day singer his airline seat

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Green Day front man Billie Joe Armstrong says his sagging pants cost him a seat on a Southwest Airlines flight.

The singer-guitarist for the San Francisco Bay area band sent a message to his Twitter followers on Thursday expressing his indignation at being tossed from an Oakland-to-Burbank flight for wearing his trousers too low.

"Just got kicked off a southwest flight because my pants sagged too low! What the f(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)? No joke!" he wrote.

An ABC7 news producer who was on the same flight told the station that a flight attendant approached Armstrong as the plane was getting ready to take off and asked him to hike his pants higher. The producer, Cindy Qiu, says Armstrong initially responded by asking the attendant if there weren't "better things to do than worry about that?"

But the attendant persisted and told Armstrong he could be ejected for his refusal to comply. When Armstrong insisted he was just trying to get to his seat, he and a traveling companion were taken off the plane.

Southwest spokesman Brad Hawkins released a statement saying Armstrong was allowed onto the next flight to Burbank and had told a customer relations agent who contacted him he had no further complaints.

"As soon as we became aware of what had happened, we reached out to apologize for this Customer's experience," the statement read. "He elected to take the next flight. We followed up with this Customer and involved Employees to get more details and, in our latest conversations, understand from the Customer the situation was resolved to his satisfaction."

A University of New Mexico football player was arrested at San Francisco International Airport in June when he allegedly refused a U.S. Airways attendant request for him to pull up his low-riding pants and, later, the captain's order to leave the plane.

The player, Deshon Marman, was held on suspicion of trespassing, battery of a police officer and obstruction of a police investigation when he allegedly resisted the officer who escorted him from the plane. But the San Mateo County district attorney refused to bring charges.

The incident sparked allegations of racial profiling after a photo surfaced of a man who flew aboard a US Airways flight wearing skimpy women's panties and mid-thigh stockings days before Marman's arrest. That man was white. Marman is African-American.

Porn performer retests HIV-negative

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An adult film performer who tested positive for HIV and caused the porn industry to shut down production as a precaution has been retested and the actor does not have the virus, a porn industry trade group said Saturday.

Production can now resume, said Free Speech Coalition executive director Diane Duke.

"The industry will be abundantly cautious as we try to nail down the reasons for what now appears to have been a false positive result on a previous test," Duke said.

The actor, who was in Florida, had been slated to work on a shoot for Mofos.com, but production was halted last week when the test came back positive for HIV.

Duke declined to release the performer's name, age or gender, citing the person's right to medical privacy. She also declined to say how her group learned of the case.

Production has been shut down since Monday in the San Fernando Valley's multi-billion dollar adult entertainment industry, which includes Hustler and Evil Angel's productions. The case was found at an out-of-state clinic that does not report to California health officials, Duke said.

The porn industry was similarly shuttered in late 2010, after porn actor Derrick Burts was diagnosed as HIV-positive. His case was confirmed, and he has since left the industry to become an advocate for the use of condoms in pornography.

The Free Speech Coalition is working on a database to track sexually transmitted disease testing among porn actors, a task formerly handled by the Adult Industry Medical Healthcare Foundation before it closed in December 2010.

Known as AIM, the San Fernando Valley clinic had catered to porn stars since it opened in 1998. It was forced to close because of inadequate licensing.

Attorneys for Jackson doctor file emergency appeal

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In an 11th hour appeal, lawyers for Michael Jackson's doctor sought to overturn a judge's refusal to sequester jurors, arguing they would be "poisoned" by publicity unless they were kept in isolation during the involuntary manslaughter trial.

Attorneys late Friday also asked to halt the start of jury selection on Sept. 8 until the issue of sequestration is decided by California's 2nd District Court of Appeal.

Dr. Conrad Murray is accused of giving Jackson an overdose of the anesthetic propofol in his home just before the pop star's 2009 death. Jackson was said to be suffering from insomnia and was desperate for sleep. Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter and could face up to four years in prison if convicted.

In a 28-page petition filed just before the long Labor Day weekend, lawyers challenged a recent ruling by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor in which he expressed faith in jurors' ability to ignore publicity about the high profile case.

Attorneys Nareg Gourjian and Edward Chernoff said in their petition that it would be impossible for jurors to avoid media reports and commentary unless they were placed in a hotel during Murray's trial. They acknowledged that their request was extraordinary, but said Jackson's legacy as one of the biggest celebrities in the world would feed extensive news coverage of the trial.

They predicted that jurors will be inundated with reports in supermarkets, bars, gyms and coffee shops and on the Internet.

"News organizations have planned sets overlooking the courthouse as if they were preparing for the Rose Bowl," the attorneys said in the petition.

Duhamel visit, concert aid flooded ND hometown

MINOT, N.D. (AP)—Hollywood actor Josh Duhamel says he believes his North Dakota hometown will rebuild from a devastating flood, and on Saturday he shared that hopeful message with thousands of people attending a benefit concert he helped plan.

Images of flooded Minot neighborhoods appeared on large video screens as Duhamel, 38, spoke on stage about the city's recovery efforts in between performances from Minneapolis-based rockers Charlz Newman and headlining act The Black Eyed Peas. His wife, Fergie, is a Black Eyed Peas member.

The concert at the State Fairgrounds in Minot was sold out, with more than 12,000 tickets going for $100 each. Duhamel said money from the Minot Rising show and a recovery fund will help buy materials for people rebuilding their homes.

AP

Josh Duhamel jokes around with his mother Bonny Kemper, of Minot, N.D. during a reception at the North Dakota State Fairgrounds in Minot, N.D. on Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011.

The 38-year-old Minot native, who stars in "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," thanked his mother, Bonny Kemper, for helping members of their family and others who were affected by this summer's flood.

The record Souris River flooding temporarily forced about 11,000 people from their homes and damaged about 4,100 houses and hundreds of businesses. The home where Duhamel grew up and his sister and her family's home were severely damaged. The middle school he attended remained submerged to its roofline for nearly a month and will likely be condemned.

Duhamel also met with flood victims and toured a Red Cross shelter during his visit to Minot over the Labor Day weekend.

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE

We the family of the late

†BRIGIDO S. HERNANDEZ

Lovingly known as "Brigs"

Wish to extend our sincere appreciation to all our relatives and friends for the genuine compassion you showed us during our most painful time of sorrow. We especially would like to acknowledge the many thoughtful prayers, comfort, unending support and other considerate acts of grace extended to us. Your presence and prayers at the daily masses and most especially at the Mass of Christian burial was very comforting. Your kindness has touched us all and we will always remember you in our hearts and prayers.

God Bless Us All.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Salamat Po.

Arsenia D. Hernandez & Children

AMC on track with 'Hell on Wheels,' 'Walking Dead'

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

AMC president Charlie Collier poses for a portrait in his office in New York, Wednesday, Aug. 31, 2011. AP

ON THE NET
http://www.amctv.com

NEW YORK (AP)—As every fan of "The Walking Dead" is well aware, this zombie-apocalypse drama will return for its much-awaited second season on Oct. 16. But AMC is announcing news that should bring delighted chills to any "Dead" devotee.

For starters, the season premiere will not be just an hour, but 90 creepy minutes.

The story resumes with the band of survivors fleeing zombie-overrun Atlanta and heading south for Fort Benning, Georgia, 125 miles (200 kilometers) away, where they hope to find refuge at the U.S. Army base. The group does not get far before meeting a new set of, um, challenges on a desolate stretch of four-lane.

In recent weeks, the show has been the subject of worrisome reports: a trimming of the budget and the abrupt departure of original show runner Frank Darabont. But judging from an advance look at this closely guarded premiere, "Dead" remains full of life.

The episode includes a big-time zombie encounter and a stomach-churning interlude. Then the final scene packs a wallop.

"How about those last two minutes? Pretty cool, eh?" says Charlie Collier, sounding more like one fan reliving it with a fellow geek than like the president of AMC, which he also is.

During a conversation this week in his mid-Manhattan office, Collier declines to get into the particulars of Darabont's exit, or to mention dollar figures connected with this 13-episode season's belt-tightening, but declares, "I would stack the budget up against probably any other in basic cable."

Last season's six episodes of "The Walking Dead" were created on a crash 10-month schedule to launch a long-sought-after series that could complement AMC's annual Fearfest marathon of horror films.

Now "Dead," which first appeared as a comic, has inspired its own companion piece, in the form of a new unscripted series aimed at comics "fanboys" of both genders. "Secret Stash" is a series from actor-filmmaker-comic-book-auteur Kevin Smith, who, perhaps best known for his indie classic "Clerks," also counts among his many ventures ownership of Jay and Silent Bob's Secret Stash comic book shop in Red Bank, New Jersey.

"Secret Stash" will be set at Smith's shop, whose vibe Collier likens to a comic-book geek's version of the neighborhood bar—an everybody-knows-your-name community of kindred spirits. There, the show promises to explore every nook and cranny of fanboy culture, with debates on arcane details of comic lore, the savoring of fanboy curios, and even an "Antiques Roadshow"-like valuation of items to be bought or sold.

These six one-hour episodes will air beginning in February, alongside the second half of the "Walking Dead" season, AMC announced to The Associated Press.

"I think AMC is at its best when it is super-serving a passionate fan," says Collier.

And there are rumors of yet another series to serve the "Dead" fan: a talk show to follow each episode and analyze its story developments. This "Dead" post-mortem (so to speak) was first reported by New York magazine's Vulture website. AMC is not commenting.

But the network has other unscripted fare to announce.

"JJK Security" is a series about a small, family-owned private security company in rural Georgia whose staff seems hijacked from a Southern gothic sitcom—only quirkier.

Collier calls this a real-life mashup of Christopher Guest mockumentaries with the aesthetic of the Coen Brothers by way of Robert Altman. "'JJK Security' is what you get when you take all that and put it in an unscripted form of storytelling," he says.

This eight-part series is scheduled to debut in late 2012.

Joining these shows is the previously announced "The Pitch," which, slated for next spring, will probe the advertising industry. Each episode will follow ad agencies as they create new campaigns.

Collier hastens to assure the AMC faithful that his network is not shifting its emphasis from the sort of scripted series that put it on the map, such as "Mad Men" and "Breaking Bad." Instead, he speaks of "layering on" an unscripted show to supplement like-minded films and dramas in the lineup.

"This is the next step in our evolution from a movie network to a network with movies at its core," he says. "But our commitment to scripted (programming), and taking risks with it, is unwavering."

AMC will unveil its latest original drama series, "Hell on Wheels," on Nov. 6.

Set in 1865, the 10-episode "Hell" focuses on former Confederate soldier Cullen Bohannon (Anson Mount), whose mission to pay back the Union soldiers who killed his wife carries him to the westward construction of the nation's first transcontinental railroad.

That epic building project is hailed by one character as a "mad, noble quest," which might apply to the series ambitious enough to depict it on the screen. With "Hell," there's mud, blood, sprawling landscapes, and conflict on a grand scale.

Says Collier, "We had been looking for two things since the day I walked in the door": the horror series that "The Walking Dead" became; and a Western to build on the network's game-changing "Broken Trail," an original Western miniseries that aired in June 2006 and delivered nearly 10 million viewers over its two-night airing.

Since Collier's arrival, he has stewarded the network's almost breathtaking transformation from an outlet for movies to a wellspring for TV's most daring and acclaimed original drama. (And highly honored, with 29 Emmy nominations this year alone.)

Collier is lanky and boyish-looking at 42, with a high-rev manner and a Tommy-gun laugh. He boasts an Ivy League graduate degree in business and a background in network advertising sales. Now he runs a growing network.

"But I'm a fan, first," he insists. And his office bears him out.

In this image released by AMC, Norman Reedus, left, and Andrew Lincoln are shown in a scene from the AMC original series, "The Walking Dead," premiering Oct. 16. AP

It's stocked with movie DVDs and cinema books, zombie heads and action figures, plus a mounted-and-framed ax that played a memorable role on "Breaking Bad." There also is also an expansive black-and-white art photo from a half-century ago that would strike a familiar chord in any "Mad Men" viewer: Glimpsed from behind, a suave executive is seated with his arm thrown nonchalantly on the back of his sofa, the inspiration for the signature "Mad Men" image of Don Draper captured in the same urbane pose.

The story of Draper, a circa-1960s New York ad man, "Mad Men" premiered in July 2007. "Breaking Bad," an ever-darker odyssey of a chemistry teacher who turns to cooking crystal meth, debuted the following January. Last summer, "Rubicon," a conspiracy thriller, won avid followers, just not enough of them, and was canceled after one season. But "The Walking Dead" arrived last Halloween to become the network's most popular series yet, with 6 million viewers for its season finale.

Then "The Killing" premiered in April with its bleakly penetrating probe into a Seattle teenager's murder and the shock waves such a crime sends through a community.

But when its finale aired in June without settling the much-hyped question "who killed Rosie Larsen?" fans howled: How dare AMC shortchange their allegiance by not clearly resolving the mystery by season's end, as promised? The fact is, "The Killing" executive producer Veena Sud had promised nothing of the sort, pointedly refusing to say whether the mystery would spill into Season 2. It didn't matter.

"Many were not thrilled with the conclusion," concedes Collier. "But we never meant to mislead anyone. We take our passionate fan base seriously."

Next season, he vows, "you will find out who killed Rosie Larsen. The conclusion to the murder and all that happens around it is going to be pretty special."

But the "Killing" backlash, along with viewer reaction to upheavals at "The Walking Dead," further crystallized a litany of complaints against a network that, until not long ago in the eyes of the audience and the media alike, could do no wrong.

A recent New York Times online story was headlined, "Could Things Break Any Worse for AMC?" And on Wednesday, the headline of a Vulture story asked: "After All Its Behind-the-Scenes Drama, What's Really Going On at AMC?"

As the Vulture article noted, "AMC's golden-child image has taken a beating in the press."

Even so, the noisy negotiations surrounding the future of "Breaking Bad" were settled recently with a commitment for 16 more episodes that should conclude its saga in style.

And after prolonged dickering, a deal was struck among "Mad Men" creator Matt Weiner, AMC and the show's studio, Lionsgate, that should satisfy viewers. The show, and Weiner, will return for two more seasons, with an option for a final third.

To dispel persistent theories that the lengthy contract dispute led to "Mad Men" being uprooted from its summer berth and postponed for months—a situation Weiner, not to mention "Mad Men" fans, decried—Collier says the move is part of an overall strategy to benefit all the network's series. The plan already has paid off for "Breaking Bad," which, shifted from spring to its current summer slot, has scored significantly boosted ratings.

"Mad Men" will return in early 2012, and Collier says similarly it should thrive there.

Collier cannot help but laugh, that lately his network is under the media microscope and taking loads of guff, a network that four years ago "couldn't get our phone calls returned, let alone have people talking about us."

But other things never change, he insists.

"We are so committed to everything that's gotten us here, including being the place where people bring their passion projects, and where we keep them, until the artist has told them to conclusion.

"We're above the timberline now. Things we're doing are getting noticed." Collier is smiling. "It's where we wanted to be."

AP

Actress Monica Bellucci poses during the photo call for her movie Un Ete Brulant at the 68th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, Friday, Sept. 2, 2011.

Bellucci says nude scene an act of generosity

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Actress Monica Bellucci says her decision to appear nude in her latest film "That Summer" was an act of generosity.

Bellucci said the request came at a "fragile moment as a woman," just a month and a half after giving birth. Bellucci said that when she accepts a role, she also trusts the director. She said she felt protected by director Philippe Garrel during the filming of the scene.

Bellucci shares the red carpet at the Venice Film Festival on Friday night with her husband Vincent Cassel, who appears in David Cronenberg's "A Dangerous Method."

Garrel's "That Summer" also is in competition for the Golden Lion, which will be awarded Sept. 10.

Comedy club announces Jerry Lewis Award and Web-athon

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedians who think Jerry Lewis was unceremoniously dumped from his post as chairman of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and face of its annual telethon are holding a Web-athon of their own.

Laugh Factory owner Jamie Masada said his club will hold a fundraiser on Monday featuring comedians such as Norm Crosby and Dave Chappelle. Fans can watch the performances online and make donations.

Proceeds of the event will be presented to those working toward a cure for muscular dystrophy as the Jerry Lewis Award. Masada said the event will be held annually on Labor Day until a cure is found.

The MDA announced last month that it was parting ways with Lewis after 45 years but offered no explanation for the split. Days after the announcement, Masada and comedians including Paul Rodriguez and Larry Dreesen gathered in support of the 85-year-old comedian.

In a letter dated Aug. 19, Lewis thanked Masada and the "funny men" for their efforts and expressed his "deepest appreciation and pride."

Lewis has not commented on what led to his departure from the MDA.

The MDA's annual telethon will be held Sunday.

Gene Simmons, longtime girlfriend engaged

NEW YORK (AP)—Rocker Gene Simmons and his longtime girlfriend, actress Shannon Tweed, are engaged.

Publicist Dawn Miller said in an email Friday that she is "happy to confirm that Gene and Shannon will be getting married in the near future."

The engagement was reported by "Entertainment Tonight."

The new season of the reality show "Gene Simmons Family Jewels" premieres Oct. 4 on the A&E network. The 62-year-old Kiss bassist and the 54-year-old Tweed have two children.

AP

In this Aug. 23, 2011 file photo, Gene Simmons, left, and Shannon Tweed arrive at the "Scarface" Legacy Celebration Event in Los Angeles.

Judge says Prince should pay $4M in NY perfume lawsuit

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York court says Prince should pay almost $4 million to a perfume company that claimed he hobbled its efforts to market a perfume named for one of his albums.

A court referee recommended a roughly $3.95 million award last week. The award would have to be confirmed by another judge.

Prince's lawyer hasn't responded to phone and email messages left Friday. He told the New York Law Journal the "Purple Rain" singer and songwriter would fight to keep the suggested award from being confirmed.

Revelations Perfume and Cosmetics Inc. says it licensed the Minneapolis musician's name and likeness and the album title "3121" to market its fragrance in 2006. The Huntingdon Valley, Pa.-based company says Prince broke promises to help promote the scent after its July 2007 launch.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Venice: Greek film 'Alps' explores grief

VENICE, Italy (AP)—Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos' latest film "Alps" proposes a novel, if disquieting, grief counseling technique. "Alps" is the name chosen to designate an ad-hoc group that offers to stand in for deceased love ones, purportedly to help the grieving through the transition. That means wearing their clothes, or repeating certain phrases, or specific exchanges. Lanthimos said he is not aware of any such real-life phenomenon—but can't rule it out. He says it was just an idea he had with his fellow screenwriter—but he figures whatever one thinks about already exists somewhere. They later learned of groups in Asia that hire out stand-ins for wives and dates at social occasions. "Alps" makes its world premiere in competition at the Venice Film Festival on Saturday.

Trial over Golden Globes rights delayed a month

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A trial to resolve a dispute over broadcast rights to the Golden Globe Awards has been delayed for at least a month. Opening statements in the struggle for one of Hollywood's glitziest award shows had been scheduled to begin Tuesday in Los Angeles. Representatives for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and dick clark productions say U.S. District Judge Valerie Baker Fairbank notified them on Friday that another judge would have to handle the case. No other details were immediately released. If the case begins in early October, a ruling will likely not come until three months before the January show. Producers negotiated a deal to keep the Globes on NBC through 2018, but the Hollywood Foreign Press Association says the agreement is invalid.

Historical epic film gets rare honor in Taiwan

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwanese director Wei Te-sheng will lead scores of aboriginal actors to attend a gala premiere in Taipei of his historical epic "Warriors of the Rainbow: Seediq Bale." The epic about a 1930 aboriginal uprising against Taiwan's Japanese rulers is currently up for best feature film at the Venice Film Festival. The Taipei premiere will be held Sunday at a square facing the Presidential Office Building in honor of the island's first epic film production in decades. Speaking to reporters in Venice on Friday, Wei said the film's nomination shows "arts and culture can have a greater power than politics." The comments are seen as a mild criticism over the Venice festival's listing of the film as coming from Taiwan, China—a reference that makes the self-governed, democratic island seem like it comes under Beijing's rule.

Bad therapist is good reason to keep looking for another

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: After years of abuse at the hands of my mother's boyfriend, I finally sought therapy to deal with the emotional issues. I spent weeks interviewing licensed therapists and finally picked one I felt comfortable with.

After several sessions, I finally revealed the true nature of my issues. Her response? "At least you weren't raped!" I was so horrified by her reaction that I got up and walked out.

It had taken me 20 years to finally work up the courage to speak to someone about my problems. Now I feel completely defeated—even exploited—all over again. I know not all therapists are as inept as this woman was, but I'm really afraid of the whole process. What do you do when therapy is the one thing you need, but also the one thing you are petrified of?

NEEDS THERAPY FOR THERAPY

DEAR NEEDS THERAPY: Because someone has a license to practice does not guarantee that the person is actually good at it. I'm sorry you learned that the hard way. But please do not let one bad experience keep you from getting the help you know you need.

When therapy is the one thing you need, but also the one thing you are most afraid of, you should do what smart people who have felt as you have done. Go anyway. This woman wasn't equipped to help you. Be glad that you realized it quickly. You did the right thing by leaving.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am the proud father of a wonderful 7-year-old boy, "Aiden." His mother, "Emily," and I share custody and have an amicable relationship. I also happen to be gay.

Most of our friends and family are aware of our situation and are kind to all of us. However, Emily's cousin "Lyn" has children Aiden's age who are starting to make anti-gay comments to him—including teasing and name-calling.

I have spoken to Lyn about this in a gentle and patient manner, but she told me the comments are reflections of her religious beliefs. Have you any advice as to what I can do to stop Aiden from being subjected to this kind of behavior, short of refusing to let him visit them anymore?

BOTHERED IN BUFFALO

DEAR BOTHERED: I don't know what religion Emily's cousin practices, but I can't think of any that encourages teasing and name-calling among children. Although Aiden is young, he is old enough to understand that some people can be hostile and intolerant of those who are different than they are. Explain that Lyn and her children are "those" kind of people, and it has nothing to do with him personally.

By the way, although you're reluctant to refuse to let your son visit that branch of the family, expose him to them as little as possible, if at all. His mother can visit Cousin Lyn when Aiden is with his daddy.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: What is the proper protocol regarding jewelry that was given by a former boyfriend? I have a few lovely items, but I no longer feel comfortable wearing them. I'm at a loss and hate to leave them sitting in my jewelry box forever.

DE-JEWELED IN OHIO

DEAR DE-JEWELED: There is no "protocol" regarding gifts from former boyfriends. If you are uncomfortable wearing the items because they bring back sad memories, consider selling them or, if they contain valuable gems, having the stones reset. However, if you can adjust your attitude and consider them "souvenirs," then wear and enjoy them.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

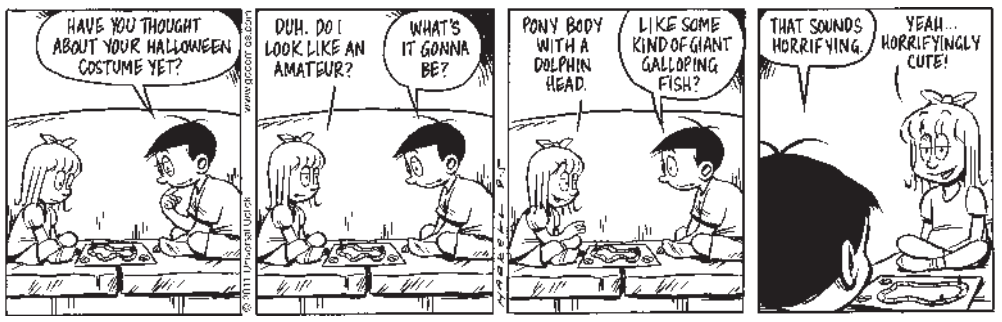
I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS HIGH IN A TREE BEFORE.
ME EITHER. YOU CAN SEE FOR MILES FROM UP HERE.
I'LL SAY! I'M GLAD WE'RE UP HERE.
THAT WAS QUITE A CRASH. WASN'T IT?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

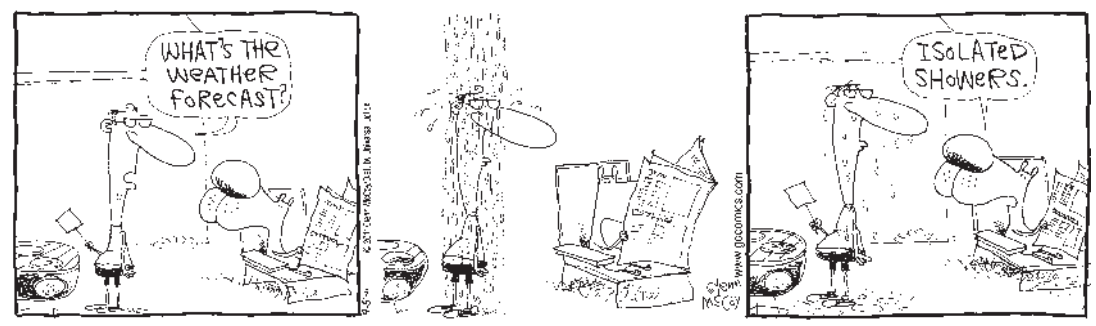
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME YET?
DUH. DO I LOOK LIKE AN AMATEUR?
WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
PONY BODY WITH A DOLPHIN HEAD.
LIKE SOME KIND OF GIANT GALLOPING FISH?
THAT SOUNDS HORRIFYING.
YEAH... HORRIFYINGLY CUTE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

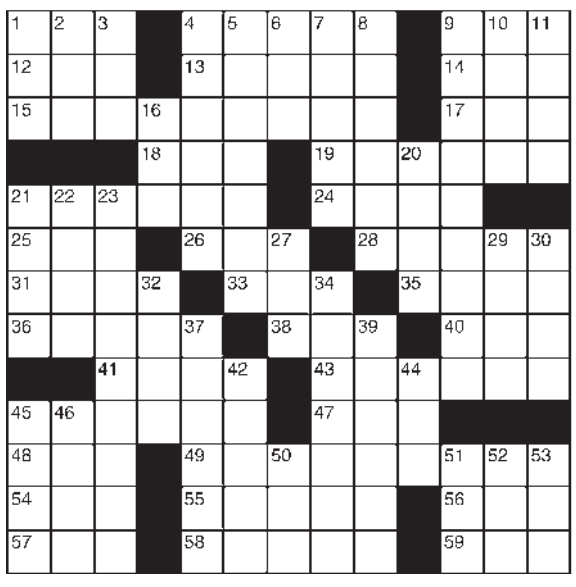
ACROSS
1 Get older
4 Preclude
9 With it, once
12 Frequent URL ending
13 Where French students go
14 Buck-eyes' sch.
15 Menage
17 Felon's flight
18 Gorilla
19 National park in Maine
21 Barbie's company
24 Stop
25 "What Kind of Fool —?"
26 Tier
28 Grace under pressure
31 Trots
33 Neither partner
35 Extremely unattractive
36 Fire residue
38 Lock opener
40 Weeding tool
41 Diplomacy
43 Like peanuts, often
45 Looking glass
47 10 Downing St. VIPs
48 Environmentally friendly
49 Ali's tactic against Foreman
54 Republicans (Abbr.)
55 Geological time period
56 Uncooked
57 Undivided
58 Triangular Greek letter
59 Chopper

DOWN
1 German interjection
2 Sticky stuff
3 Ostrich's cousin
4 Less shallow
5 Military formation
6 Halloween shout
7 Muslim deity
8 Porter
9 "Don't move"
10 Actor Morales
11 Cougar
16 Perched
20 Matty of baseball
21 Goya subject
22 Singer Tori
23 Acrobat's walkway, maybe
27 Stir-fry pan
29 — gin fizz
30 Kept tabs on
32 Burn somewhat
34 Honor
37 Crossed home plate, e.g.
39 Big name in motorcycles
42 Figure of speech
44 1960s hallucinogen
45 "Let —, Lover"
46 PC picture
50 D.C. persona
51 Man-mouse link
52 Opposite of bellum
53 Ram's mate

Solution time: 24 mins.

F	I	E	■	S	C	A	R	■	M	O	N	O
E	A	T	■	E	L	L	E	■	A	M	I	D
E	G	O	■	Q	U	I	D	■	S	I	L	O
T	O	N	G	U	E	T	W	I	S	T	E	R
■	■	■	Y	E	S	■	O	N	E	■	■	■
P	E	A	R	L	■	W	O	K	■	V	A	N
E	L	M	O	■	S	A	D	■	H	E	R	O
Z	I	P	■	G	A	Y	■	M	I	X	E	D
■	■	■	P	A	L	■	A	U	G	■	■	■
T	W	I	S	T	A	N	D	S	H	O	U	T
W	I	S	H	■	M	A	I	S	■	B	R	A
A	L	I	A	■	I	S	L	E	■	I	S	M
S	L	O	W	■	S	A	U	L	■	T	A	P

Saturday's answer 9-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rose McGowan, 38; Dweezil Zappa, 42; Michael Keaton, 60; Raquel Welch, 71.

Happy Birthday: It's what you accomplish that will count, not what you say you are going to do. Emotions will be difficult to control, but if you wrap your head around what's really important and keep negative thoughts to yourself, you will avoid banging heads with someone who can make your life miserable. Your experience and knowledge will be amplified if you listen carefully. Your numbers are 4, 10, 12, 22, 24, 31, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Focus on the result you want rather than the trivial matters that are causing you aggravation. Now is not the time to deal with issues you cannot change. If you do your best, you will be in a position to overcome your obstacles. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't allow someone's tough talk to stand in your way when it comes to work and what you need to accomplish to advance. Say little and do more, and your actions will bring good results. Jealousy probably explains the clash you are having with someone. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A money situation will cause emotional confusion. Problems will arise if you are too flirtatious or impractical about the way you handle a personal situation. Adjust your plans to avert any hard feelings. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Change can be good. Welcome what comes your way and you will find it much easier to adjust. Love is highlighted, and doing things that make the people you care about happy will bring favorable results. A partnership will bring all sorts of perks. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Protect what you have personally and professionally. Don't let your emotions kick in and cause you to give too much. A change is overdue and will help escort you into the future with greater knowledge and insight. Socialize with people who interest you mentally and inspire you emotionally. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make choices that benefit you, not someone else. You are likely to face opposition at home and with people you are involved with personally. Your best efforts will come from helping a cause you believe in or volunteering for an organization that has something to offer you in return. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Do your best to lower your debt and secure your assets. Dealing with banks and institutions will prove profitable as long as you aren't impulsive. Develop an idea, but don't market it just yet. Not everyone you are dealing with is stable. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Listen, but don't take what you hear as gospel. An event or meeting that interests you will change your attitude about old beliefs and standards. Jump-start your imagination; try new things. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Personal issues may be difficult to handle. Someone is likely to confront you if you have been flirting or spending too much time away from home. It is best to answer questions quickly, so as not to raise suspicion. Altering your current living space will help you move forward. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get down to business. Take care of financial matters and set your sights on higher goals. Don't leave anything undone. Act now. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Honesty will be imperative when it comes to partnerships. If you aren't satisfied with the answers you are getting, dig deeper. Avoid overindulgent people or those looking to get something for nothing. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be careful not to side with anyone. Take a back seat and play mediator. You can only damage your reputation by meddling. A personal issue with someone you are close to will end up costing you emotionally or financially. Socialize, have fun and avoid debates. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, unpredictable, helpful, energetic, charming and thorough.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					6			
5	7	1		9		2	8	
			7	1			9	3
7	1				5			
		9				4		
			9				1	2
6	2			3	1			
	4	8		2		6	7	1
			4					

Difficulty Level ★ 9/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

7	9	1	3	6	2	8	5	4
2	6	4	8	9	5	1	7	3
3	5	8	4	7	1	2	6	9
9	2	7	6	3	8	5	4	1
5	4	6	1	2	7	3	9	8
1	8	3	9	5	4	7	2	6
8	1	2	7	4	6	9	3	5
4	3	5	2	8	9	6	1	7
6	7	9	5	1	3	4	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SANDRA BULLOCK — Solution: 6 letters

E	Y	I	A	M	A	N	D	A	G	S	P	E	E	D
S	N	T	R	B	L	I	N	D	I	A	G	N	E	S
E	I	I	I	O	S	U	N	D	B	E	E	R	H	Y
E	M	S	V	L	L	T	E	I	N	W	A	S	C	T
L	A	E	T	I	A	E	E	O	G	N	A	R	H	N
A	R	M	N	E	D	I	I	R	G	R	E	G	A	E
D	G	E	E	R	R	T	N	E	C	D	I	E	N	W
D	A	L	I	T	O	H	L	E	A	E	K	V	C	T
I	R	B	E	P	T	A	O	E	G	A	S	R	E	A
S	E	A	O	H	S	E	L	O	L	N	S	E	S	L
E	T	P	A	O	I	Ⓡ	N	I	D	S	O	H	U	Y
M	P	R	P	C	E	L	Ⓤ	N	N	H	Y	C	O	S
Y	A	O	A	E	U	Q	Y	Ⓓ	A	D	K	A	H	S
S	R	R	H	C	E	A	Y	A	Ⓨ	Y	A	E	D	A
P	G	C	Y	T	S	T	A	O	L	F	E	T	A	K

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Agnes, Alyssa, Amanda, Angela, Annette, Beer, Birdee, Blind, Chances, Cheerleader, Congeniality, Crash, Days, Divine, Eight, Floats, Gracie, Gwen, Helga, Hope, House, Kate, Lake, Linda, Lori, Love, Lucky, Lucy, Margaret, Mary, Melba, Poppy, Potion, Proposal, Rudy, Sarah, Secrets, Siddalee, Side, Sisterhood, Speed, Teacher, Tequila, Twenty, Virginia, Yaya

Last Saturday's Answer: Awareness

CLASSIFIED ADS

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Serena overwhelms Azarenka early at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—If anyone still harbored any doubts about whether Serena Williams is back at her best, she put on a pretty persuasive performance during the first 17 minutes of her third-round match Saturday at the U.S. Open.

That's how long Williams needed to build a 5-0 lead en route to a 6-1, 7-6 (5) victory at Flushing Meadows over one of the best players the women's field had to offer: fourth-seeded Victoria Azarenka, a Wimbledon semifinalist two months ago.

Listen to Azarenka describe how it felt to stand across the net from Williams during her superb start:

"What's it like? It's painful," said Azarenka, who won eight points in those opening five games. "To have somebody just going at you like that, it's a little bit painful."

Eventually, though, Azarenka straightened her own play out enough to make things interesting in the second set. She erased four match points, broke when Williams served for the match at 5-3, and left Williams saying she wasn't pleased.

"She won the first set very easily, and it was a little bit too easy, so then she got tested—and she needed to be tested," said Williams' mother, Oracene Price.

Williams passed the test, and showed off her fitness, which is much improved from when she lost in the fourth round at Wimbledon. At the end of one point, she did the splits. On another, she raced all the way over to the blue sign near the stands to smack a forehand winner.

She and Azarenka described the level of play as being worthy of a Grand Slam semifinal, rather than the Week 1 matchup that it was. But they wound up being drawn to meet this early because Williams is seeded only 28th, a reflection of her lower-than-usual ranking as a result of nearly a year's absence from the tour because of a series of health scares.

The 29-year-old American already owns 13 major championships, including three at the U.S. Open, which is why, when she was asked how she can play so well now, Williams replied: "I mean, I was a pretty good player before. So just trying to get back into that rhythm and feel it again."

In the fourth round, Williams will face former No. 1 Ana Ivanovic of Serbia, the 2008 French Open champion, who is seeded 16th.

"It's exciting, at least for me. I think she's the hottest player out there at the moment. She's been playing so well lately. It is going to be a good challenge," Ivanovic said after ending Sloane Stephens' surprising run by beating the 18-year-old American 6-3, 6-4 in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday night.

Ivanovic acknowledged that Williams will be the "favorite, that's for sure" but also said: "I know I can give her a tough match. She beat me in the past, but maybe I can go for revenge on Monday."

Her match against Stephens was followed by top-seeded Novak Djokovic's 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 victory over 39th-ranked Nikolay Davydenko, a two-time semifinalist at the U.S. Open. After improving to 60-2 in 2011, Djokovic delighted the crowd by showing off some dance moves on court while music blared over the stadium loudspeakers.

AP

Serena Williams sits on the court following a shot to Victoria Azarenka of Belarus during the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011.

"I know most people expect top players to get to the late stages of the tournament, so there's extra pressure on us," said Djokovic, seeking his first title at Flushing Meadows after runner-up finishes in 2007 and 2010. "But it's a challenge we're ready to accept. This is what we work all our lives for, to be on this court."

At the start of the day, the woman who's seeded No. 1, Caroline Wozniacki, took to that same court and eliminated Vania King of the United States 6-2, 6-4. Wozniacki will continue her bid for a first Grand Slam title against 15th-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova, owner of two major trophies.

Also into the fourth round with victories Saturday were 2010 French Open champion Francesca Schiavone of Italy, who got past Chanelle Scheepers of South Africa 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-3; No. 17 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova of Russia, who beat 2008 U.S. Open runner-up Jelena Jankovic of Serbia 6-4, 6-4; and No. 10 Andrea Petkovic of Germany, who defeated No. 18 Roberta Vinci of Italy 6-4, 6-0 to reach the fourth round at Flushing Meadows for the second year in a row.

"Grand Slams are very stressful," Petkovic observed. "I think any player that you ask - and if he answers honestly - it's a lot of stress."

That, as much as anything, could explain why so many players have been quitting during matches because of injury or illness: No. 9 Tomas Berdych (shoulder) and No. 31 Marcel Granollers (abdominal muscle) did so Saturday, raising the total retirements in men's and women's singles to a record 14 by the third round.

Never before had more than 12 players stopped during a match throughout the course of any entire Grand Slam tournament in the Open era.

"For me, it is shocking to see so many retirements. I have never retired in my whole life, except once when I played against (James) Blake in Paris, but I didn't even walk onto the court. For me it doesn't matter how bad I'm feeling, I will be out there and giving it a try, because you never know what's gonna happen," 16-time major champion Roger Federer said.

"Look, every player feels different," he added. "It's unfortunate it happens."

Federer moved into the fourth round for the 30th consecutive Grand Slam tournament by overcoming what he called "tricky wind" and a second-set blip to defeat No. 27 Marin Cilic of Croatia 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

The 6-foot-6 Cilic caused some problems with his wingspan, and when he hit a big forehand that Federer couldn't get back, they were tied at a set apiece.

In the third, with Cilic facing a break point while serving at 4-all, he was warned by the chair umpire for a time violation. Cilic promptly double-faulted, handing Federer a 5-4 lead and momentum.

"Did he double-fault because of the time violation? Maybe. I don't think so," Federer said. "It came a bit out of nowhere."

He's won at least one Grand Slam title each of the past eight seasons, but that streak is in danger of ending in 2011. Next up as he pursues a sixth trophy at the U.S. Open is a fourth-round match against 36th-ranked Juan Monaco of Argentina, who beat Federer's pal, Tommy Haas, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Also advancing Saturday were No. 8 Mardy Fish, the top-seeded American, who has yet to drop a set after beating Kevin Anderson of South Africa 6-4, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3); No. 20 Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia; No. 22 Alexandr Dolgopolov of Ukraine; and 2003 French Open champion and U.S. Open runner-up Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain. Tipsarevic (Berdych's opponent) and Ferrero (Granollers') play each other next.

On Monday, Fish faces a potentially difficult match against No. 11 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga - the 2008 Australian Open runner-up who beat No. 19 Fernando Verdasco 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 - and so was pleased to finish off Anderson in three sets.

"I'll be physically fine in two days," Fish said. "But, you know, I'm 29. I don't wake up in the morning feeling like I'm 20."

Bolt runs 4th fastest 200 in history at Worlds

DAEGU, South Korea (AP)—Even with the 200 meters already won, Usain Bolt gritted his teeth and dipped his 6-foot-5 frame at the line.

He proved his point.

The Jamaican may have clowned around before the race and renewed his antics afterward, but for 19.40 seconds Saturday at the world championships he was as all business. And when he's this serious, he's impossible to catch.

"I am still the best," he said. "It was beautiful."

Bolt stayed an instant longer in the starting blocks, clearly not wanting to false start as he did in the 100 final when he was disqualified. His slow start hardly mattered. He quickly passed the competition around the curve. From there, it was simply a matter of what his time would be. He didn't let up, huffing and puffing all the way.

It wasn't near his world record of 19.19, but it was the fourth fastest in history. And that's with Bolt admitting he's nowhere near his record form of two years ago at the worlds. He expects that to change for next year's London Games, when the stakes are bigger and the lights brighter.

"I have to come to the Olympics and do my extreme best and blow the peoples' minds," Bolt said.

On Saturday, he was not the entire show. The Americans hauled in five medals to increase their total to 21, four more than Russia.

Allyson Felix and Sanya Richards-Ross led the women's 1,600 team to gold, while Walter Dix wound up with silver, finishing 0.30 seconds behind Bolt. Danielle Carruthers and Dawn Harper couldn't catch Sally Pearson in the 100 hurdles but still took silver and bronze.

The surprise of the night for the U.S. came when 21-year-old Matthew Centrowitz finished third in the 1,500, less than a second behind winner Asbel Kiprop of Kenya.

Centrowitz drew inspiration from watching Jenny Barringer Simpson win the women's 1,500 on Thursday.

"(She) made me think it was possible," said Centrowitz, whose father was a two-time Olympian. "She set the tone."

In other finals, Sergey Bakulin of Russia won the 50-kilometer walk, Matthias De Zordo of Germany took the javelin title and Anna Chicherova of Russia beat two-time defending champion Blanka Vlasic of Croatia in the high jump.

On Sunday, Abel Kirui successfully defended his marathon title, completing a Kenyan double in the event.

Kirui, who set a championship record two years ago in Berlin, finished in 2:07:38 to claim Kenya's seventh gold medal of the meet and reaffirm its dominance in the long distances.

Kenyan teammate Vincent Kipruto was second in 2:10:06.

Last week, Edna Kiplagat led Kenta to a sweep in the women's marathon.

Bolt was the headliner Saturday night.

Like a maestro, he performs to his adoring audience. Bolt drew applause simply for stepping into the stadium, more for bumping fists with a track attendant and even more for his signature bow-and-arrow pose.

And this was the warmup act. In the main event, he was simply dazzling.

So in control was Bolt, he could have let up with a few strides of his long legs left—something he's done countless times—but he was out to make a point: He's still the same unbeatable Bolt.

"He ran great," said Dix, who also won silver in the 100.

These days, Bolt is so entertaining other athletes stop what they're doing to catch a glimpse. Felix stood on a step beneath the stadium and gazed out at the scoreboard.

"You're always wondering, 'What is he going to do? What is he going to run?'" Felix said. "He always puts on a good show."

Felix and her relay teammates weren't too bad themselves.

Richards-Ross, who typically runs the anchor leg, wanted to go first, just to get the squad a lead. She did and handed off to Felix, who extended the lead and looked not the least fatigued as she took the track for her seventh race of the championships.

Cano helps Yankees rally past Blue Jays

NEW YORK (AP)—Robinson Cano gave the Yankees the lead for the second straight game against Toronto, this time hitting a two-run double in the seventh inning to exceed 100 RBIs, and New York rallied to beat the Blue Jays 6-4 on Saturday.

Cano lined a 2-2 pitch from reliever Casey Janssen to the wall in center field to score Curtis Granderson and Alex Rodriguez, back in the lineup after missing a week with a sprained left thumb.

After Cano's hit, Nick Swisher ended Janssen's scoreless streak at 16 2-3 innings with an RBI single.

Francisco Cervelli hit a two-run homer off Ricky Romero (13-10). The Yankees improved to a major league-best 36-9 in day games and ended Romero's winning streak at six straight decisions. His last loss came against New York on July 16.

AP

New York Yankees pitcher Bartolo Colon delivers to a Toronto Blue Jays batter during the first inning of a baseball game Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011 at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Red Sox 12, Rangers 7

In Boston, Carl Crawford hit a grand slam as Boston scored eight runs in the fourth inning and snapped a two-game skid with a victory over Texas.

Jarrod Saltalamacchia had a two-run homer during the big inning, which featured eight hits as the Red Sox sent 13 batters to the plate and bounced back from a 10-0 loss to the Rangers the night before.

Angels 10, Twins 6

In Anaheim,Vernon Wells hit a tiebreaking solo homer, Mark Trumbo hit his first career grand slam and Peter Bourjos also went deep for Los Angeles.

Jered Weaver (16-7) tied a career high for wins, despite allowing six runs and eight hits over five innings and throwing 111 pitches a day after attending his grandfather's funeral in Oregon.

Athletics 3, Mariners 0

In Oakland, Brandon McCarthy pitched a three-hitter for his first shutout in more than two years, leading Oakland over Seattle.

McCarthy (8-7) matched his career high of 10 strikeouts and faced only four over the minimum. The right-hander allowed three singles and finished the gem in style, slipping a called third strike past Mike Carp on his 114th pitch.

Tigers 9, White Sox 8

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit a game-ending solo homer in the ninth inning, capping a stirring Detroit rally against Chicago.

The first-place Tigers trailed 8-1 in the fifth and 8-6 heading into the ninth, but Ryan Raburn tied it with a two-run shot off Sergio Santos. Cabrera won it one out later with his 25th homer of the year.

Rays 6, Orioles 3

In Florida, B.J. Upton had five RBIs and Wade Davis pitched effectively into the seventh inning to lead Tampa Bay past Baltimore.

Upton hit a two-out, three-run double off Alfredo Simon (4-8) to make it 6-2 in the fifth. The Rays tied it at 2 during the first when Upton drove in two runs on a double.

Royals 5, Indians 1

In Kansas City, Luke Hochevar pitched eight innings of three-hit ball and Kansas City handed Cleveland a costly loss.

Hochevar (10-10) allowed an unearned run, struck out eight and walked one while throwing a career-high 117 pitches. The right-hander is 5-2 with a 3.51 ERA in 10 starts since the All-Star break.

The Indians lost ground in the AL Central, falling 6 1/2 games back of first-place Detroit.

Brewers 8, Astros

In Houston, George Kottaras became the first major league player to hit for the cycle this season and the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Houston Astros 8-2 on Saturday night.

Kottaras hit a solo homer in the fourth inning off Bud Norris (6-9) to give Milwaukee a 2-0 lead and tripled in the sixth ahead of a two-run shot by Craig Counsell, his first of the year.

Dodgers 2, Braves 1, 10 innings

In Atlanta, Dee Gordon scored the go-ahead run on Juan Rivera's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning and the Dodgers extended their winning streak to a season-best six games.

The speedy Gordon, who entered as a pinch runner in the eighth, doubled off rookie Anthony Varvaro (0-1) to begin the 10th, advanced to third on James Loney's sacrifice and scored on Rivera's fly ball to center.

Cardinals 6, Reds 4

In St. Louis, Jaime Garcia earned his first win since July 23 and drove in the go-ahead run to lead the Cardinals to the victory.

St. Louis won for the fourth time in five games to remain 8 1/2 games back of NL Central-leading Milwaukee. Cincinnati has lost five of six.

Nationals 8, Mets 7

In Washington, Ryan Zimmerman's short fly ball with one out in the ninth dropped into right field for a single, driving in two runs and giving Washington the victory.

With the Nationals trailing 7-6 in the ninth, Jesus Flores sent a leadoff single into left field for his third hit of the game. Brian Bixler then came in to run, and Bobby Parnell (3-5) walked Jonny Gomes to put runners on first and second. Bixler and Gomes advanced on Ian Desmond's sacrifice before Roger Bernadina was walked intentionally.

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Marlins 8, Phillies 4

In Miami, Mike Cameron homered twice and Gaby Sanchez had a go-ahead three-run shot in the eighth to lift Florida.

Antonio Bastardo (6-1) entered to begin the eighth with Philadelphia holding 4-3 lead. He walked the first two batters—Omar Infante and Logan Morrison— before he was replaced by David Herndon.

Diamondbacks 7, Giants 2

In San Francisco, Ian Kennedy outpitched Tim Lincecum for his 18th victory, Paul Goldschmidt homered and singled in a run, and NL West-leading Arizona beat San Francisco.

Aaron Hill and Gerardo Parra each hit RBI doubles as the Diamondbacks extended their division lead back to six games after losing the series opener Friday night.

Rockies 5, Padres 4

In San Diego, Dexter Fowler had three hits and scored twice, and Colorado handed San Diego its ninth consecutive loss.

Troy Tulowitzki and Todd Helton each had two hits and a drove in a run for the Rockies, who finished with 11 hits.

Fowler, who tripled in the series opener on Friday night, had a pair of doubles and has six extra-base hits in his last four games.

Three-way tie for Boston lead

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Masters champion Charl Schwartzel turned anger into a string of birdies for a 5-under 66 on Saturday that put him in a three-way tie for the lead with Adam Scott and Bubba Watson in the Deutsche Bank Championship.

Watson, who finally put some attention back on his golf, played in the morning and produced what he called a "boring" round of 64 that included an eagle on the seventh hole for the second straight day. Scott, who won on the TPC Boston eight years, shot 63 in the afternoon.

Schwartzel would not have imagined another 66 on his card when he made the turn. He was in perfect position off the tee on the par-5 18th until he pulled his approach, and then compounded the error with a three-putt for a soft bogey. Still stewing when he got to the first tee, he left the 5-wood in his bag and hit driver.

"I was, to say the least, fairly upset," Schwartzel said. "It's sometimes very crucial to come back straightaway, otherwise your round can get away from you. The birdie on the first just got me going in the right mindset again."

The drive set up a flip wedge to 6 week. Another massive drive left him only a 7-iron on the par-5 second, and he was on his way. Schwartzel ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch and was tied for the lead at the halfway point.

The morning was filled with big cheers, mostly around one hole.

Brandt Snedeker hit 9-iron from 146 yards on the par-3 16th, and the ball spun back to the right and into the cup. Some 20 minutes later, Greg Chalmers also made an ace.

It proved to be a bigger boost for Snedeker, the start of a bizarre 1-5-3 on his card - the ace, followed by a sloppy bogey that got his attention, and an eagle putt on the 18th as he went on to a 64 and was one shot behind. Nick Watney, a two-time winner on tour this year, had another 67 and was two shots behind.

The leaders were at 10-under 132 as they work their way to a Labor Day finish.

"I'm happy to put myself in the hunt because I need a good week to move up in this FedEx Cup," said Scott, who is at No. 23 in the standings. "I'm running out of time quick."

The top 70 on the FedEx Cup list after this week advance to the third playoff event outside Chicago in two weeks, with the top 30 from there going to Atlanta for a shot at the $10 million prize.

Typical for these FedEx Cup playoffs, there were other scores that were significant.

Ernie Els was among the last to qualify for the playoffs, though he still faced long odds. He barely advanced out of the first round and then shot a 65 on Saturday to move into a tie for sixth with a group that included Rickie Fowler.

"I've been working quite hard to get some kind of game going, and it seems like I've got it going a bit now," Els said. "The putter is starting to cooper a little bit better."

Els currently is using a belly putter. Phil Mickelson tried the belly putter for the second straight day, although it was more his long game that led to a 73. He was 11 shots behind and made the cut on the number - 1-over 143 - at the tournament he won four years ago.

William McGirt, the 125th and last man into these playoffs, kept his hopes alive with a second straight 69 that at least gave him a reasonable chance of moving on to Chicago.

Watson hasn't missed many cuts this year. He really hasn't done much of anything aside from his two wins in San Diego and New Orleans. He attributed it to getting accustomed to a little more celebrity.

"You win three times in less than a year, all the people are writing about you in the paper, you've got more fans, you've got a lot more friends, you've got a lot more family, you've got a lot more of everything," he said. "For me, for getting a simple guy like myself, it's not what I dream to do."

CNMI

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winner facing the loser of the Guam-Palau tiff for the second and last finals berth.

No games were played yesterday to give way to the Pacific Games Council general assembly.

Golfers out of medal hunt

In golf, CNMI bets shot in the 80s in the penultimate round.

Jeff Taylor, who had a pair of 76 in the first and second round, logged an 80 in the third for a three-game total of 232. He is out of the running for the medal as he is in 15th place with one round to go.

Adam Hardwicke hit an 86 to go with his 89 and 86 in the first two rounds, while Tony Satur, who recorded a 94 and 92, posted an 85 in the third.

The fourth and final round of the competition was scheduled last Saturday, but results were unavailable at press time. New Caledonia is likely to sweep the medals in the individual competition, as it occupied the Top 3 spots after Friday's games.

The host also continued to lord it over in the medal standings with its 66-51-23 gold-silver-bronze tally. Tahiti is far away in second place with its 29-20-17 tally. Fiji is back at third with its 13-16-23 medal haul.

Mister, Nelson debut in beach volley

Beach volleyball action at the Terrain de beach-volley Koutio in Dumbea will begin today with the CNMI battling Palau in the first match at 9am (8am Saipan time).

Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson will be suiting up for the Commonwealth, while Palau's players are not yet listed in the Games' website.

Other scheduled matches in the opening day of the beach volleyball competition are American Samoa vs. Samoa at 10am; New Caledonia vs. Vanuaty at 11am; Fiji vs, Guam at 12nn; Tahiti vs. CNMI at 1pm; Palau vs. Samoa at 2pm, Tonga vs. Solomon Islands at 3pm, and Papua New Guinea vs. Cook Islands at 4pm.

The beach volleyball competition is divided into three pools and each pool will play in a single round-robin format and the Top 3 teams in each group will advance to the next round.

Dillay, Abrams race today

Athletics' Rachel Abrams and Douglas Dillay will also see action in the 2011 Pacific Games for the first time today.

Abrams will be running in the qualifying heat for the 100m sprint at 5pm (4pm Saipan time) at the Stade Numa Daly in Noumea. Abrams is also entered in the 200m run and long jump.

In the morning session of the athletics competition, Dillay will be racing in the 800m run at 10:20am (9:20am Saipan time). Dillay's other events are the 400m run and 400m hurdles.

The third member of the CNMI Athletics Team—Trevor Ogumoro—will not be debuting in the Games until this Wednesday via the men's long jump in the afternoon session of the track competition. Ogumoro is also set to join the triple jump event.

SHIRLEY'S

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ton Classic will have competition in six divisions: Classes A,B and C, U12, U18, and 40-and-above. Games will be played from Friday to Sunday.

Except for the youth division, the five other categories will have a round-robin format. Undefeated squads after the round-robin play will automatically advance to the championship matches. If there will be no unbeaten teams in the elimination round then only the Top 4 teams will advance to the crossover semi-finals. In case of a tie, a knock-out game will be played. For a three-way tie, the team with the most set points will draw a bye and face the winner of the bottom two playoffs.

The U18 division will be a double-round robin affair and the Top 2 placers will battle for the championship.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kim Boranah, who teamed up with Joel Ortega, serves against Irish Pagarao and Keno San Pablo during their Class C game in the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

MINI GAMES

From Page 28

uatu were in a deadlock with eight votes apiece.

Twelve of the 22 votes are needed for the majority win in the first round of election, but since neither the CNMI nor Vanuatu got it, a second round of selection was required. In the tiebreaker, Vanuatu gained the nod of the voting members.

Before the selection of the host for the Mini Games, Nauru, the CNMI, and Vanuatu were given 30 minutes each to present their respective bids. Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White represented the CNMI in the selection and some members of the bid committee were there for the presentation. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was also present at the assembly to back up the Commonwealth's bid.

Vanuatu Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee (VASANOC) Antoine Boudler led the winning bid's presentation.

In Vanuatu's bid, it is offering 14 sports against the CNMI's 11. Vanuatu has listed athletics, beach volleyball, football, golf, rugby, table tennis, weight lifting, archery, boxing, cricket, judo, karate, and netball. The CNMI did not offer rugby, netball, and cricket, which a lot of nations in Melanesia and Polynesia play.

Vanuatu plans to hold the 2017 Mini Games in the last two weeks of August until early September and will have to totally renovate the Korman Sports Complex, which will be the main venue for the Games. Vanuatu is expected to built a couple more facilities and has estimated the cost of hosting the Games to more than $30 million.

LOPSIDED

From Page 28

10 each.

Carl Aldan paced Samahang Laguna with 17 markers, while his three other teammates also scored in double figures, but these baskets came at the time when the match was already in the bag for Filcag.

Samahang Laguna has most newcomers in the youth league, while Filcag Rollers are boasted off seasoned U20 players.

MDX 88, SIP 75

In the second game, MDX stepped on the gas in the fourth quarter for an 88-75 win over Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense.

The victory put MDX back in the solo lead with its 3-1 record. SIP absorbed its second loss in a row after winning its debut over the Jets.

The MDX-SIP tiff was still close after the third with the former ahead by only seven, 62-55.

In the fourth, MDX saved the best for last, as Jared Ano and Matt Duenas combined for 15 of the team's 26 markers in the final canto to lift their team to the 13-point win.

Duenas and Ano finished with 22 points each after recovering from a poor shooting in the opening frame.

Duenas was held to a free throw and Ano to three points in the first period, which had SIP on top, 18-12. John Cenir sizzled for 10 points for SIP to take early control of the match.

Duenas and Ano started picking up the scoring for MDX in the second canto, but Mike Saturno answered with 10 points to keep SIP in front at the break, 41-35.

At the start of the second half, Duenas and Ano kept pouring it on for MDX and they finally grabbed the lead entering the final canto.

In the payoff period, Duenas and Ano drew help from five other teammates to keep the lead and the win, while SIP cagers struggled with only Niko Salem making more than one field goal in the fourth.

First Game

Filcag Rollers 103 – Kiyoshi 19, Reyez 18, Namelo 12, Aulerio 12, Brennan 10, Galarse 10, Hambros 7, Eubanks 6, Torres 4, Cruz 2.

Laguna 69 – Aldan 17, Macahito 14, Manalili 12, Lapuz 10, Madreo 6, Gagaring 4, Habijan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 29-12, 52-29, 72-57, 103-69.

Second Game

MDX 88 – Duenas 22, Ano 22, Rollan 10, Maranan 8, Devero 6, Castro 5, Feria 4, Vertudez 4, Metran 2.

SIP 75 – Cenir 13, De Guzman 12, Saturno 10, Ni. Salam 9, Alegre 6, Aranda 4, Palacios 4, Mariano 4, Ne. Salem 2.

Scoring by quarters:18-12, 41-35, 62-55, 88-75.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	84	53	.613	–
Boston	84	54	.609	1/2
Tampa Bay	75	63	.543	9 1/2
Toronto	69	70	.496	16
Baltimore	55	82	.401	29

Central Division

Detroit	77	62	.554	–
Cleveland	69	67	.507	6 1/2
Chicago	68	68	.500	7 1/2
Minnesota	58	80	.420	18 1/2
Kansas City	58	82	.414	19 1/2

West Division

Texas	79	61	.564	–
Los Angeles	75	64	.540	3 1/2
Oakland	63	76	.453	15 1/2
Seattle	58	80	.420	20

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	88	47	.652	–
Atlanta	81	57	.587	8 1/2
New York	67	70	.489	22
Washington	64	73	.467	25
Florida	61	77	.442	28 1/2

Central Division

Milwaukee	83	57	.593	–
St. Louis	74	65	.532	8 1/2
Cincinnati	68	71	.489	14 1/2
Pittsburgh	64	75	.460	18 1/2
Chicago	59	80	.424	23 1/2
Houston	47	92	.338	35 1/2

West Division

Arizona	79	60	.568	–
San Francisco	73	66	.525	6
Los Angeles	68	70	.493	10 1/2
Colorado	66	73	.475	13
San Diego	60	79	.432	19

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 6, Toronto 4
Oakland 3, Seattle 0
Detroit 9, Chicago White Sox 8
Boston 12, Texas 7
Tampa Bay 6, Baltimore 3
Kansas City 5, Cleveland 1
L.A. Angels 10, Minnesota 6
Pittsburgh 7, Chicago Cubs 5
St. Louis 6, Cincinnati 4
Milwaukee 8, Houston 2
Washington 8, N.Y. Mets 7
L.A. Dodgers 2, Atlanta 1, 10 innings
Florida 8, Philadelphia 4
Colorado 5, San Diego 4
Arizona 7, San Francisco 2

DEUTSCHE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

NORTON, Massachussets (AP) – Scores Saturday from the Deutsche Bank Championship, a US PGA Tour event played at the 7,214-yard, par-71 TPC Boston.

Second Round

Bubba Watson	68-64–132
Charl Schwartzel	66-66–132
Adam Scott	69-63–132
Brandt Snedeker	69-64–133
Nick Watney	67-67–134
Rickie Fowler	68-67–135
Ernie Els	70-65–135
Jerry Kelly	66-69–135
Jason Dufner	68-67–135
Chez Reavie	67-68–135
Sergio Garcia	71-65–136
Brendan Steele	69-67–136
Ryan Moore	68-68–136
Luke Donald	66-70–136
Jason Day	67-69–136
Brian Davis	70-66–136
Troy Matteson	65-71–136
Zach Johnson	68-69–137
Chris Kirk	71-66–137
Y.E. Yang	66-71–137
Webb Simpson	69-68–137
Blake Adams	70-67–137
Greg Chalmers	72-65–137
Scott Stallings	72-65–137
Lucas Glover	69-69–138
Gary Woodland	69-69–138
Jonathan Byrd	67-71–138
Jim Furyk	69-69–138
Matt Kuchar	69-69–138
Chad Campbell	71-67–138
William McGirt	69-69–138
Johnson Wagner	69-69–138
George McNeill	67-72–139
Steve Marino	67-72–139
Geoff Ogilvy	69-70–139
Andres Romero	71-68–139
John Senden	70-69–139
Carl Pettersson	69-70–139
Kyle Stanley	68-71–139
Dustin Johnson	68-71–139
Hunter Mahan	68-71–139
Graeme McDowell	71-68–139
Bill Lunde	68-71–139
Bill Haas	70-70–140
Justin Rose	70-70–140
Fredrik Jacobson	74-66–140
J.J. Henry	72-68–140
Sean O'Hair	70-70–140
Mark Wilson	70-70–140
Chris Stroud	72-68–140
Robert Garrigus	72-69–141
Bo Van Pelt	73-68–141
David Toms	69-72–141
Aaron Baddeley	72-69–141
Jeff Overton	70-71–141
Ben Crane	70-71–141
Scott Piercy	68-73–141
Robert Karlsson	74-67–141
John Rollins	68-73–141
Ricky Barnes	72-69–141
Rory Sabbatini	67-75–142
Padraig Harrington	69-73–142
Ryuji Imada	73-69–142
Robert Allenby	70-72–142
Steve Stricker	69-73–142
Charles Howell III	72-70–142
Brandt Jobe	71-72–143
Jhonattan Vegas	71-72–143
Charley Hoffman	70-73–143
Martin Laird	71-72–143
Phil Mickelson	70-73–143
Davis Love III	71-72–143
Marc Leishman	71-72–143
Pat Perez	74-69–143
Camilo Villegas	73-70–143
Jimmy Walker	71-72–143
Spencer Levin	72-71–143
Ryan Palmer	70-73–143

Failed to qulaify

Cameron Tringale	68-76–144
Ian Poulter	72-72–144
Brian Gay	72-72–144
Tommy Gainey	71-73–144
Keegan Bradley	68-76–144
D.A. Points	75-69–144
Kevin Chappell	73-71–144
Anthony Kim	73-72–145
Kevin Na	73-72–145
Brendon de Jonge	68-77–145
Stewart Cink	71-74–145
Vijay Singh	75-70–145
K.J. Choi	70-75–145
Chris Couch	72-74–146
Harrison Frazar	79-68–147
Charlie Wi	73-74–147
Kevin Streelman	75-72–147
Kris Blanks	71-77–148
John Merrick	76-72–148

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Pacific Games highlights top headlines

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Pacific Games dominated last week's headlines with 22 island-nations, including the CNMI, competing in the regional event New Caledonia is hosting.

The quadrennial competition opened with the traditional parade of nations with over 4,000 athletes and officials joining the opening ceremony at the Stade Numa Daly in Noumea.

Then at the contest proper, the CNMI Baseball Team started the Commonwealth's Pacific Games bid and won its debut and early rematch against defending gold medalist Palau, 1-0. The CNMI sluggers next faced New Caledonia and lost the close match, 2-3. Tony Rogolifoi's wards had another neck-and-neck game against rival Guam and bowed anew, 5-6. The Commonwealth then snapped its two-game losing skid with a win over American Samoa, 9-4.

The CNMI also has entries in the beach volleyball, golf, and athletics. For golf, the Commonwealth is left with three players—Jeff Taylor, Adam Hardwicke, and Tony Satur—after Jess Wabol withdrew due to a back injury. Taylor shot a pair of 76 in the first two rounds for 10th place, while Hardwicke and Satur struggled and were at the bottom half of the 43-golfer field.

Beach volleyball's Tyce Mister and Chris Nelson did not see action in the opening week and will have their games this week. Athletics' Rachel Abrams, Douglas Dillay, and Trevor Ogumoro will also start competing this week.

In other off-island event, Mieko Carey won in the 2011 XTERRA Japan for her third straight triumph in Marunuma.

In local events, the UFO caging continued with its competition in three divisions at the TSL Sports Complex. In the open division, Namfrel/Proa remained undefeated after four games to lead the eight-team league. In the masters category, Cabalen/Wings Travel is also unbeaten in three matches to stay on top, while MDX and the Jets shared the youth league lead with identical 2-1 cards.

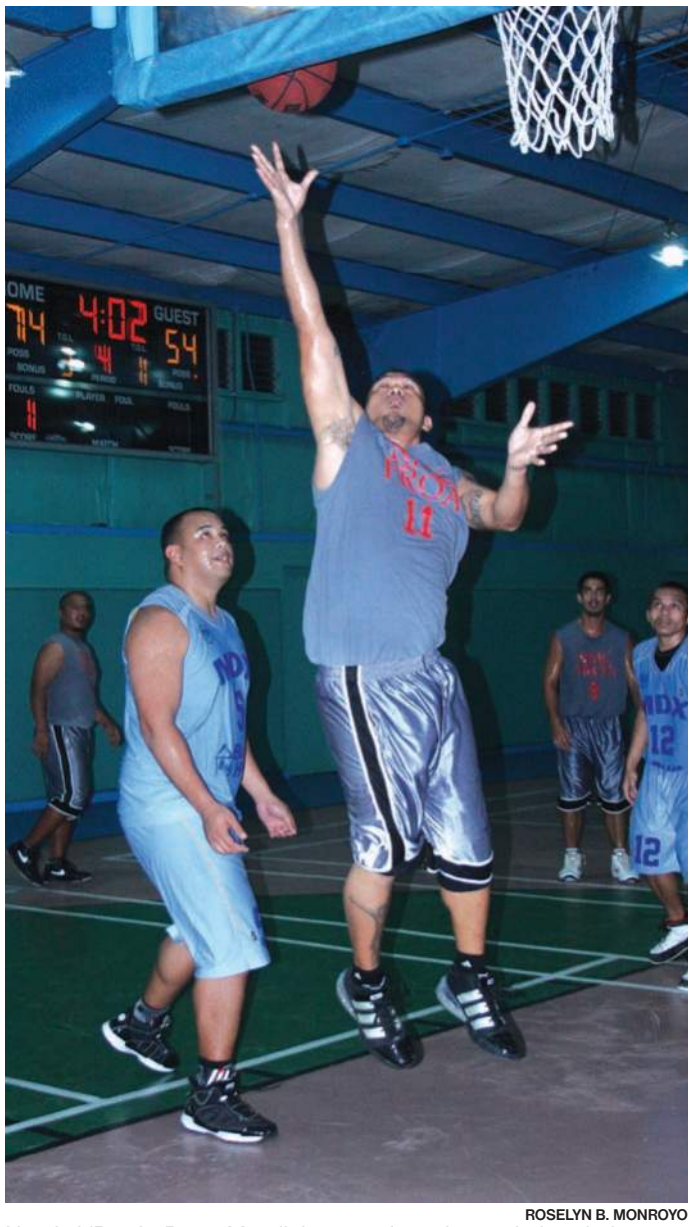
Still in basketball, the Blue Haus caging at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court began its playoff round.

In futsal, Wild Bill's and Shirley's A widened their lead in the men's and women's divisions after posting separate wins last week.

Still in football, the CNMI had visitors last week. Former Japan National Team member and pro striker Atsuhiro Miura ad five others were on Saipan for two days and conducted a brief clinic for youth players.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Cook Islands delegates participate in the parade of nations during the opening ceremonies for the 2011 Pacific Games last week in New Caledonia.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Namfrel/Proa's Peter Mendiola goes for a layup during their game against MDX/Blue Haus in the UFO Bud Cup caging last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

French President Nicolas Sarkozy, front left, watches a dance program during a visit to the Athletes Village in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

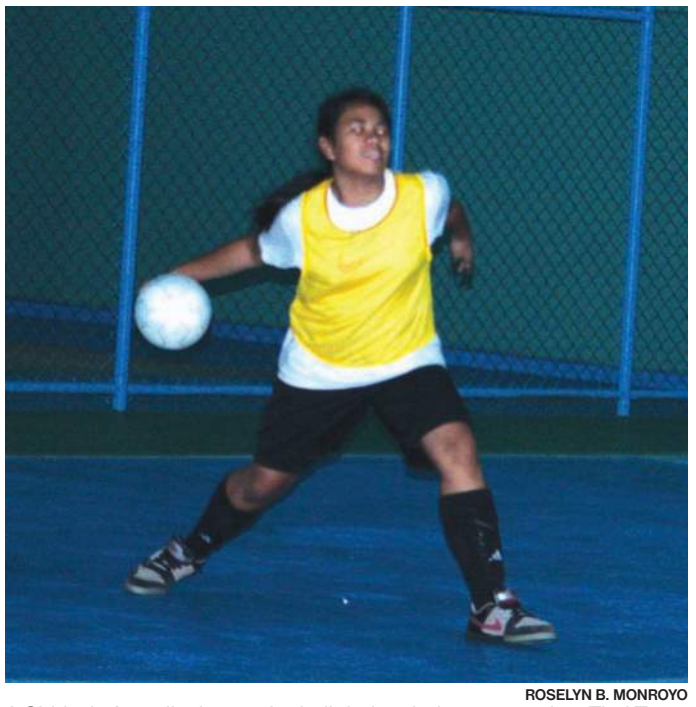
Former Japan National Team member and pro striker Atsuhiro Miura demonstrates a kicking technique during a clinic last week at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A batter waits for the pitch during Week 1 of the baseball competition in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Mieko Carey poses with fellow pro triathletes before the start of the 2011 XTERRA Japan Championship in Marunuma last week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Shirley's A goalie throws the ball during their game against Thai Team in the women's futsal league last week at the TSL Sports Complex.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

CNMI sluggers stay alive

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Baseball Team is back on track after absorbing back-to-back losses, following a 9-4 victory over American Samoa in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia last Saturday.

The official score sheets of the CNMI-American Samoa tiff were unavailable at press time.

The win was only second in four games for the Commonwealth sluggers, but it was a much needed one as they now share the third to fourth place with New Caledonia. Palau and Guam are tied for first with their similar 3-1 records, but the former is assured of the No. 1 spot regardless of the final results in the round-robin tournament after beating the latter, 4-2, also last Saturday.

Guam plays American Samoa in its last game today. The CNMI is also scheduled to collide against Fiji today and a win will automatically advance the Commonwealth to the playoffs. Fiji (1-2) was slated to duel New Caledonia last Saturday, but the match was reset to today. Guam and Palau will duel for the first finals berth tomorrow. If New Caledonia and the CNMI win over Fiji, they will square off in the playoff match with the

See CNMI on Page 26

File photo shows Juan Maratita waiting for the next play during their game against Palau in the 2010 Micronesia Game in Koror. Maratita and the rest of the CNMI sluggers won over American Samoa in last Saturday's match in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

2017 Mini Games in Vanuatu

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI missed hosting the 2017 Mini Games after losing to Vanuatu in the second round of selection yesterday during the Pacific Games general assembly in New Caledonia.

The Commonwealth drew only nine votes against Vanuatu's 13, giving the latter another chance to host the Mini Games. Vanuatu hosted the quadrennial meet for the first time in 1993. The CNMI has never hosted the Mini Games and was hoping the voting members of the Pacific Games Association will lean toward the country that has never hosted the competition.

Nauru was also entered in the battle for the hosting rights of the 2017 Mini Games, but bowed out in the first round of selection after getting only six votes. The CNMI and Van-

See MINI GAMES on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Filcag Rollers' Luizi Reyes, right, dribbles past Samahang Laguna's Carl Aldan during the first game in the UFO Docomo Cup last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Lopsided victory for Filcag Rollers in UFO Docomo Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Filcag Rollers toyed around Samahang Laguna last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex, 102-69, en route to their second straight win in the UFO Inter-Organization Youth Basketball Docomo Pacific Cup 2011.

The bout was over right after the first round, as Filcag threw their killer punches early for a commanding 29-12 advantage.

Filcag Rollers had six players finishing in double figures to hand Samahang Laguna its third loss in as many games. Filcag Rollers improved to a 2-1 record to share the second spot with the AFP/Jets.

Josh Kiyoshi top-scored for Filcag Rollers with his 19 points, while Luizi Reyes chipped in 18. Wens Namelo and Brandon Aulerio added 12 apiece, while Leo Galarse and Don Brennan contributed

See LOPSIDED on Page 26

Shirley's Badminton Classic kicks off

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The inaugural 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic opened last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex with over 60 players joining the weekend competition.

The event kicked off with the traditional parade of teams and featured five badminton clubs—Taga, Saipan Badminton Club, Dberks Blazers, Shirley's Badminton Club, and the Golden Racquets.

Susan Macario, general manager of competition sponsor Shirley's Coffee Shop, graced the opening ceremony of the mixed doubles event and was joined by Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Jerry Tan.

"Shirley's Coffee Shop is proud to be part of the growth of badminton in the CNMI. We will do this tournament annual and hopefully more players will join every year. Supporting a competition like this is our way of helping develop various sports in the CNMI," Macario said.

Shirley's Coffee Shop will also host a basketball league next month and supports football and futsal teams.

The 2011 Shirley's Badmin-

See SHIRLEY'S on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Participants and organizers of the 2011 Shirley's Badminton Classic recite the oath of sportsmanship during the opening ceremony for the mixed doubles competition last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.